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## THE WINCHESTER IN WARFARE

by James E. Serven

If a moral is sought in this story, it can be found. It can be stated simply. Despite lessons learned in 1861-1865, it took a long time to change the Army's thumbs-down attitude on repeating rifles.

★ ★ ★

"A gun is a machine made to throw balls" declared Oliver F. Winchester when he composed *The First Requisite of a Military Rifle* in August of 1869.<sup>1</sup> This is an interesting document, addressed to the British Secretary of State for War. In it Winchester set forth his current views on ballistics and the proper goals to seek in military small arms construction.

In the Seven Weeks War of 1866, between Prussia and Austria, the Prussians, armed with new breech-loading needle guns, soundly whipped the Austrians armed with muzzle-loaders. That victory removed any doubt throughout the world as to the superiority of breech-loaders. Oliver Winchester accepted the acknowledged superiority of breech-loaders in stride; now his great ambition was to prove the superiority of repeaters over single-shot weapons.

It was contended that repeaters were too complicated, too expensive, and would waste ammunition. Winchester methodically set about to prove these opinions false. He complained that the ounce ball and eighty grains of powder then in military use was "a dose for an adult elephant!" And he finally wound up by declaring: "From [my] conclusions there is no logical escape, and any military commission that fails to admit it . . . is at sea without a rudder."

It appears that quite a few military commissions must have been content to drift along without a rudder for, especially in respect to lever-action muskets, military men gave scant approval to Winchester arms. Commenting pointedly on the Army's backwardness in approving his repeaters, Oliver Winchester recalled: "It was thirty years after the invention and introduction of percussion caps, and only after the people had universally adopted them, that they took the place of flintlocks for Army use."

The Civil War in America provided our first real testing ground for repeating rifles. Soldiers who had seen the Henry and Spencer rifles in action were much impressed, and the repeater's reputation grew. America was ready for the Model 1866 Winchester (Figure 1). That is, Americans generally. But the Ordnance Department, facing problems somewhat different than those of civilians (and sometimes maligned unjustly) was not yet prepared to adopt the repeater and discard the single-shot Springfield.

Much light is thrown on Winchester's early efforts at home and abroad in John E. Parsons' excellent book *The First Winchester*. In Europe, Winchester had better success than at home for his military arms. France and Turkey purchased a considerable number of the Model 1866 Winchester muskets, along with some carbines. A few years later the Winchester Company sold guns to the governments of Turkey, France, Spain, China, Japan, Australia, and various South American countries. Small numbers are said to have been adopted by the Italian Navy, some were in use for special service by British Naval officers, and a modified military pattern of rifle and carbine had limited use in Spain.

No Winchester ever made a bigger splash in the pond than that caused by the Model 1873 (Figure 2). Here at last was a repeating magazine rifle

<sup>1</sup> The principal source for this article is the records of the Winchester Repeating Arms Company of New Haven, as made available and confirmed by Mr. Thomas E. Hall. Considerable use was made of early Winchester catalogs in my own collection; of John E. Parsons, *The First Winchester*, New York, 1955; Harold F. Williamson, *Winchester: The Gun That Won the West*, Washington, 1952; and personal observations.

relatively free of its earlier faults. This was the gun that put the Winchester name up in big letters; this model became the firm foundation of a well-recognized success story in American industry.

Turkey and a few other foreign nations liked the '73 military muskets. These muskets could be had with angular or saber bayonets, and an entry in the old Winchester records, which are being skillfully analyzed by Thomas E. Hall, indicates that some were called "Moorish triangular bayonets." Yet, although a Winchester lever-action repeating rifle was among approximately one hundred guns and accessories submitted to U. S. Ordnance boards in 1872-1873, it was not favorably regarded.

Charles W. Sawyer has written that the true 1873 Winchester type was not submitted to an American board until the trials of 1878.<sup>2</sup> But the story was the same; the Army was not interested. Perhaps here we may rightfully cock a questioning and critical eyebrow. Why was this gun not suitable at least for some special services, when it had proved itself so dramatically in the Indian warfare of the West—when it had come to be such a favorite of hunters that for a time it accounted for 70 percent of all American game taken?

The apparent reason was that the Army preferred a single shot rifle's long-range powerful charge to the repeater's rapid firepower at shorter ranges, with less powerful cartridges. The trouble was that the enemy refused to be cooperative and fight only at long ranges.

Starting with the .44 rimfire cartridge in the Model 1866, using the specially designed .44-40 centerfire cartridge in the Model 1873, Winchester then tried to satisfy everyone by developing the bigger .45-75 cartridge. The gun designed to take this cartridge was merely a big brother to the '73 and was called the Model 1876 (Figure 3). Sometimes it is called the "Centennial Model" as it was first exhibited in the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia in 1876.

The Model 1876 gained some distinction of a semi-military nature when the Northwest Mounted Police of Canada purchased a small quantity of full-stocked carbines. It is said that these carbines played an important role in putting down the Riel Rebellion in 1885. Yet sales were slow. Civilian

models continued to sell well, as in the case of the '73 model, but the Model 1876 military pattern found few takers.

In 1877 the Winchester Company acquired important patent rights from B. B. Hotchkiss, giving them their first bolt-operated action. They proceeded to make refinements on this action and four models were submitted to the Ordnance Board of 1878. At long last, a Winchester military gun found favor, and one of the submitted models was approved. It was chambered for the official 45-70 government cartridge.

Several thousand Winchester-Hotchkiss rifles were purchased for the Navy, and a lesser number for the Army. The actions were made by Winchester, but barrels and some of the fittings were made at Springfield Armory. In 1882 the Ordnance department held further trials, and these resulted in another small order for the Winchester-Hotchkiss.

When first introduced the Winchester-Hotchkiss rifle was known as the Model 1879, and was made with a one-piece stock. Various changes were introduced, bringing about the improved Model 1883 (Figure 4), with separate butt and forestock. Altogether, counting the sporting guns along with the military, about 82,000 Winchester-Hotchkiss rifles were produced. At this period the Ordnance Department was proceeding very cautiously. No war clouds were on the horizon, and drastic changes in firearms design were on the drawing boards.

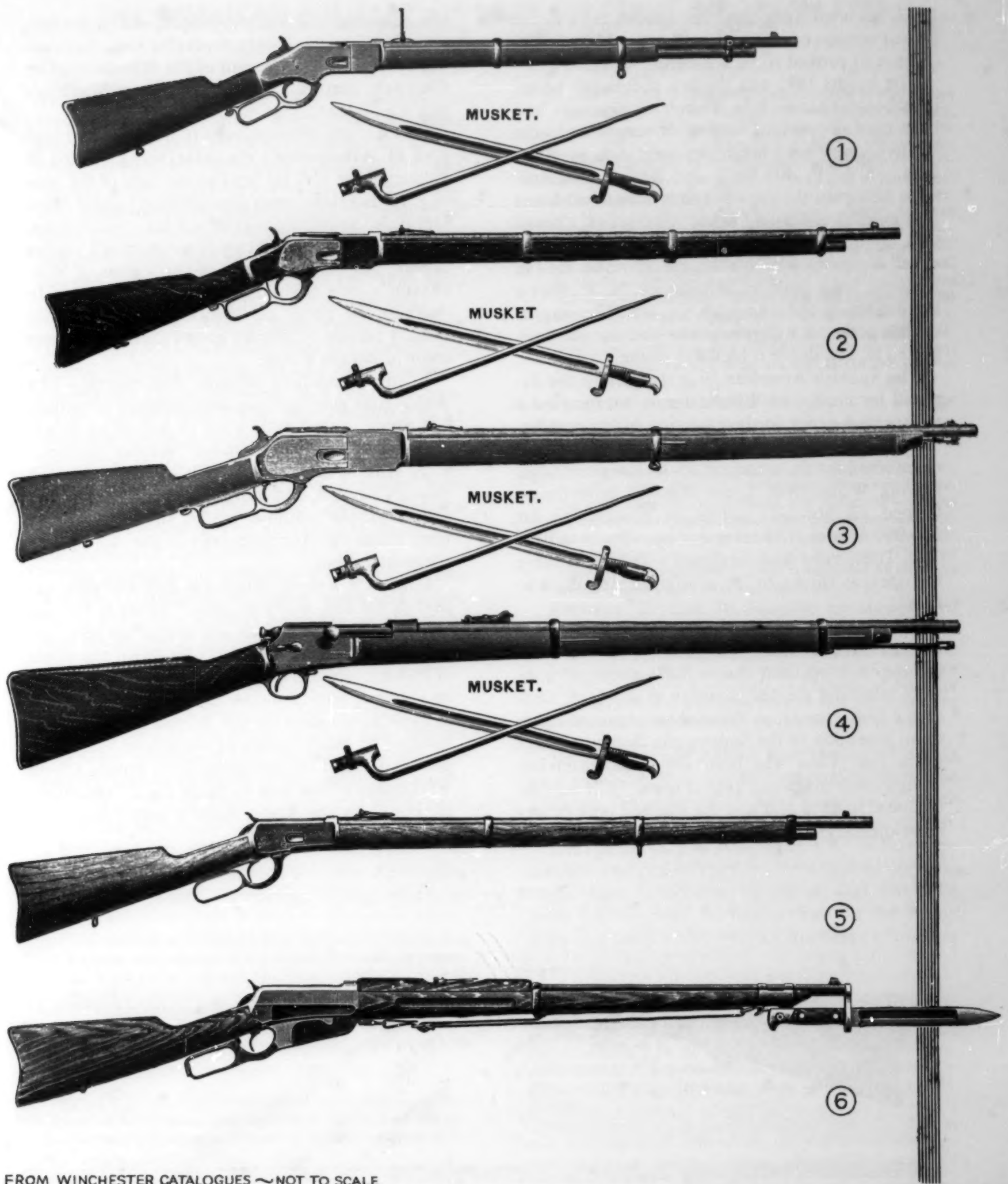
Turning back to the Winchester lever-action line, we find that, with John Browning's able help, a stronger, smoother lever-operated action had been developed. This became known as the Model of 1886. Winchester records indicate that a few military rifles were made up on the Model 1886 action, but none ever appeared in Winchester catalogs, and the quantity was insignificant.

The next lever-action military model to appear in the Winchester sales catalogs was that of 1895. A model that preceded this gun, the Model 1892 (Figure 5), was made up in a musket pattern. The 1892 was not made up or offered as a musket, however, until March 1898.

As is generally known, the Model 1892 was a small-framed adaptation of John Browning's improved lever-action design (as developed for the Model 1886) and was chambered for the same range of cartridges as the ever-popular Model

<sup>2</sup> Charles W. Sawyer, *Our Rifles*, Boston, 1920, 179-180.





FROM WINCHESTER CATALOGUES ~ NOT TO SCALE

1873. As a military arm, the Model 1892 never gained serious consideration. But the Model 1895 (Figure 6) proved to be a different story.

The Model 1895 was the first successful American box-magazine rifle. Tubular magazines had been used in previous models. It was made in the relatively new hard-hitting calibers such as .30-40 govt. .35 WCF, .405 WCF, 303 British, 7.62 Russian, and even the .30-06. Teddy Roosevelt loved this gun, as did many other Americans. I recall that my brother accounted for moose, bear, and other big game with his Model '95. One time in Arizona, Dick Short of Woodstock, N. Y., shot a Sonora white-tail deer with his .405. The impact of that powerful ball practically bled out the deer, gutted it, and drove it half-way home!

The Spanish-American War stepped up the demand for arms, and Winchester at last received a substantial order for lever-action military rifles. Ten thousand guns went to the Navy in 1898, chambered for the standard .30-40 Krag cartridge. During World War I, the Russian government topped all previous orders by contracting for 300,000 Model 1895 lever-action rifles in caliber 7.62. These guns were equipped with a short saber bayonet, as shown in the accompanying illustration.

At the same time that Winchester was developing the Model 1895 lever-action rifle, they had another ace up their sleeve. Bolt-operated guns were receiving greater attention at the U. S. Ordnance Department, so Winchester obtained rights to an invention of the famous gun designer James Paris Lee. Thus was born the Winchester-Lee straight pull magazine rifle (Figure 7). It was introduced in 1895 and had the smallest bore of any issue military rifle, caliber .236 (6m/m). It had a

box magazine and was clip-loaded, one of the first with that feature. A very short (8½ inch) bayonet was used. Fifteen thousand of the Winchester-Lee rifles were purchased by the U. S. Navy. Manufacture was discontinued in 1903.

It is not my purpose here to attempt a recitation of Winchester's manufacturing record of military rifles very far beyond the turn of the century. In these later years thousands of Enfield rifles, Garands, Browning machine rifles, trench guns, etc. have helped to strengthen America's sinews of war. But these were not military guns of Winchester's own design. My purpose has been to sharpen the focus on Winchester's nineteenth century parade of military model arms, and a very colorful parade it was.

I cannot conclude without brief mention of a Winchester gun that was semi-military in nature, but which caused quite a stir in American shooting circles. This is the famous "Winder Musket," a .22 rimfire target rifle, built on the full-stock military pattern, and designed for indoor practice or short-range outdoor match shooting. A few were made up experimentally in the .45-70 government caliber.

Edward S. Farrow, a noted author and arms expert of his day, wrote in 1904: "There is but one grade of Winchester guns and that is the best." As we trace the trails of gun-smoke down the pages of history, we find many others who, in one way or another, have joined voices with Mr. Farrow in their admiration for the Winchester guns that became as much a part of American life as the plowshare and the branding iron. Surely Oliver Winchester's "machine to throw balls," regardless of rebuffs by the Army, made a pretty big name for itself.



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## THE AMERICAN MILITARY OF 1825 THROUGH EUROPEAN EYES

by Milton F. Perry

Throughout all American history distinguished travelers from across the Atlantic visiting these shores have eyed critically our customs, social and religious institutions, government, politics, and military affairs. Some were pleased with what they saw, some were disagreeably impressed, and a few drew no conclusions—reporting only what they saw with a minimum of comment. In many cases one can better see through foreign eyes than from the accounts of natives the state of America.

Karl Bernhard, Duke of Saxe-Weimar-Eisenach (1792-1862) fell into the last class of reporters. His journal, entitled *Travels Through North America, During the Years 1825 and 1826* (Philadelphia, Carey, Lea & Carey, 1828) and translated by an unknown person, presents incisive commentary on the nation in the "middle period" of our history before the Industrial Revolution. A soldier himself, Bernhard paid more than average attention to military matters, and his remarks stand well the probing of the historian.

This journal is not a landmark of reporting like William H. Russell's *My Dairy North and South*, but to those of a military bent, his observations shed illumination upon some interesting facets of American martial activities. Most of the comments are about activities found only in the candid reporting of a stranger. These excerpts from his two volumes are presented not only for the practiced researcher, but particularly for the neophyte as an example of the opportunities for study that exist in printed form, and samples of which can be located in most large libraries.<sup>1</sup>

Bernhard arrived at Boston, 26 July 1825, from Antwerp aboard the Dutch corvette *Pallas*. On 28 July he visited Cambridge about which he wrote:

A company of volunteers from Boston, the Washington Rangers, were training. The company were already departing when we arrived, but had the politeness to halt and repeat their exercise again. They exhibited much skill. They are somewhat fantastically dressed in green, and armed with long rifles. I became acquainted with the officers, who were all young men of the best families.<sup>2</sup> I also spoke with

several Cambridge [Harvard] students, some of whom were dressed in a uniform, belonging to a volunteer company, consisting of students alone. [vol. I, p. 40]

... [30 July] I visited Mr. [Josiah] Quincy, who took me to the Court-house to see the arsenal of the thirteen volunteer companies of this place [Boston]. One of these companies had been organized ever since 1638;<sup>3</sup> all of these consist of young men of good families, who do not wish to serve in the same companies with the common crowd, but have united, and, in elegant uniforms, compose the flank companies of the battalions of militia. A large hall in the Court-house is appropriated for their exercises, when the weather is inclement. Every company consists of about sixty men. The greater number . . . are armed like infantry, with bayonets according to the English model, and the riflemen alone with rifles. Not only the arms of the company, but the swords of the officers are kept in the chambers of the Court-house. [I, 42]

Bernhard then traveled via Albany to Buffalo where, on 20 August, he saw "an amusing spectacle:"

It consisted of a militia parade, consisting of thirty men, including seven officers and two cornets. They were formed, like a battalion, into six divisions, and performed a number of manoeuvres. The members were not all provided with muskets, but had ramrods instead. Only the officers and the rifle-company, four men strong, were in uniform. The band consisted of sixteen men, and was commanded by an officer with a colonel's epaulettes and drawn sword! [I, 74]

Between 25 and 30 August, he stopped at Newark and visited Fort Niagara:

... and found every thing clean and comfortable. I will only further remark . . . that the uniform of the United States' Infantry is very simple, and consists of dark blue cloth, with one row of white buttons, blue lace collars and cuff of the same, white cord, and leather caps. [I, 80]

Bernhard made a short tour through Canada and came back to the United States along the Hudson, stopping off at West Point, with which he was most pleased and left a lengthy description.

During his stay in New York City in late September and early October (Bernhard is distressingly vague as to dates) he saw all that was to be seen. Of Negroes, he noted that "in the Army they are only employed as musicians, but are

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It was established in 1812 and reestablished in 1825. On the reorganization of the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia in 1842 it became Company I of the 1st Light Infantry Regiment, but was disbanded in 1845. In the 1840's it is referred to as being "composed entirely of Republicans." In 1837 the members were reported as wearing green frocks, black hats, and white duck trousers.

<sup>3</sup> The Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, then, as now, a distinguished corps of veterans. The Boston Volunteer corps were at this period quartered in Faneuil Hall, actually a market, not a court house.

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<sup>1</sup> An excellent discussion of the subject with bibliography, but restricted to British visitors, can be found in Francis Paul Prucha, "The United States Army as Viewed by British Travelers, 1825-1860," *Military Affairs*, XVII (Fall 1953), 113-124.

<sup>2</sup> Apparently the company known later as the Rifle Rangers.



never admitted to be soldiers. Soldiers are not even allowed to be of mixed blood!" The unknown translator has added that they were "shipped as seamen in the navy . . . where they stand on the same level with white seamen."

On Governor's Island, he noted without comment that a Bible was in each barracks room, "a present from the New York Bible Society."

He next passed through Philadelphia, Washington, and Richmond, meeting most of the important persons along the way. On 12 December at Charleston, South Carolina, he met Colonel John E. Wool, an inspector general of the Army, who was on a tour of establishments in the south and west and whom Bernhard had seen in Washington. With Wool and Major Abraham A. Massias, an Army paymaster, he visited Fort Moultrie:

. . . where the Colonel had to inspect two companies of the third regiment of artillery, lying there in garrison.

We had a boat, attached to the artillery, prepared for our passage, which was manned by the artillerists. These are exercised as oarsmen in all posts situated on the water, and this is certainly a good arrangement, if the officers do not abuse the privilege. Our boat's crew had unfortunately made too spirituous a breakfast, the oars of course moved as Providence guided them, and the colonel was so irritated, that he dispatched the whole six on landing to the black hole. I remained during the parade of the two artillery companies in the garrison. A company of this description is with matrosses and cannoneers, fifty-five strong; from these are subtracted, the sentinels, sick, and those under arrest, so that both corps had scarcely sixty men under arms. The privates had fire-arms and cartridge boxes, and the matrosses and corporals alone carried side-arms. The haversack consisted of a wooden box, covered with black waxed linen. They wore grey pantaloons, and boots, as our artillery; the officers alone had white cloth pantaloons. The coats were not well made, and did not fit; all the men had large shirt collars, which had a bad effect, and gloves of a different pattern, because each individual bought for himself. [II, 6]

#### At Fort Mitchell, Chatachoochee River:

Sunday, the 1st of January, 1826, we were awakened by the drums and fifes, which announced the new year, by playing Hail Columbia and Yankee Doodle.

#### At New Orleans, 23 January 1826:

Colonel Wool inspected the two companies of the first and fourth regiments, under Major Twiggs stationed here; both together made at the most, eighty men under arms. The inspection took place before the cathedral. I admired the good order and great propriety of these companies, as well as their uniformity of march and dressing, which I had no opportunity to observe before, in the troops of the United States. There was indeed many things to be wished for; as for example, the coats of the men did not fit, and many were too short; the grey cloth pantaloons were of different shades, and much too short; no bayonet sheaths, nor gun straps; the belt intended for the bayonet sheath over that of the cartridge box; the privates had wooden flints in their guns, and none in their cartridge boxes, also no spare flints, files, screwdrivers, nor oil flasks. From the false maxim, that the second rank, if they are shorter men, can-

not fire over the front, the lesser men are ranged in first, and the taller in the second rank through the whole army of the United States, and this produces a great eye-sore. There was some manual exercises, and manoeuvres in battalion training: all good. The soldiers were mostly young, handsome and strong men, well fed and healthy looking natives of the western states; there were some Germans and Irish among them. The Irish, however, since their conduct is often in nowise commendable, are no longer admitted. [II, 59]

#### On 12 February 1826, Duke Bernhard was in New Orleans:

The volunteer battalion of artillery of this place is a handsome corps, uniformed as the artillery of the old French guard. It is above one hundred strong, and presents a very military front. This corps manoeuvred about half an hour in the square before the cathedral, and then marched to the City Hall, to receive a standard. Upon the right wing of the battalion, a detachment of flying artillery was placed. The corps had done essential service on the 8th of January, 1815, in the defence of the line, and stands here in high respect. [II, 70]

#### Later on 22 February 1826:

On the same day, was celebrated the birth of the great Washington. All the vessels lying in the river were adorned with flags, and fired salutes. The volunteer legion of Louisiana was called out in full uniform, to fire volleys in honour of the day. The artillery before mentioned, which gave thirteen discharges from two pieces, distinguished themselves again by their excellent discipline. The infantry was very weak, not exceeding fifty men, with a most monstrous standard. A company of riflemen of thirty men, who had done good service on the 8th of January, 1815, appeared very singular in their costume: it consisted of a sky-blue frock and panataloons, with white fringe and borders and fur hoods. This legion was established in the last war, and considering itself independent of the militia, it has clothed itself after the French taste, and is officered by Frenchmen.<sup>4</sup> [II, 71-72]

#### Up the Mississippi went Bernhard, and stopped at Robert Owens' socialistic settlement in Tennessee, New Harmony, where on 17 April:

. . . two companies of the New Harmony militia paraded, with drums beating, and exercised morning and afternoon. They were all in uniform, well armed, and presented as imposing front." [II, 118]

Bernhard passed up the river to Pittsburg, stopping at numerous places along the way. Unfortunately for posterity, his observations of the Army and militia are few and short. Evidently, what he had seen at other places applied at these. He saw the Pittsburg arsenal and the town's militia (which was "neither . . . uniformed nor armed"). Crossing Pennsylvania he remained at Philadelphia for a few days and then took off for New York where, on 16 July 1826, he departed this "happy and prosperous land."

<sup>4</sup> The Louisiana Legion, then commanded by Brigadier General Planché and composed of Creole personnel. German, Irish, and "Native American" corps were yet to appear in New Orleans. The Washington Artillery, for example, dates from 1838.



## THE ARTILLERY OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

### Part II

By Jac Weller

#### Field Artillery

During the Revolution, the 19th century conception of field artillery as a highly mobile, almost independent, fighting force was completely unknown. In both the British and American armies, the drivers who directed the draft animals hitched to field pieces on the march were not soldiers.<sup>27</sup> The artilleryists who actually handled the pieces in action were supposed to maneuver them entirely by handspikes and dragropes.

However, field artillery achieved in some campaigns of the American Revolution an importance probably never attained in war before and seldom exceeded since. The commanders on both sides realized the importance of guns with untrained and semi-trained infantry. They had a psychological value in the minds of the American soldiers that exceeded their casualty-producing value by a considerable margin. Two 6-pounders in Lord Percy's relief column probably saved from annihilation the British forces that fought at Lexington and Concord. The American militia were facing bayonets and musket balls with a courage seldom equaled in the history of our fighting forces, yet the mere sound of artillery terrified them.<sup>28</sup> British artillery preponderance at first similarly affected the American defenders of Bunker Hill, and Knox's guns gave confidence to the Continental infantry in the Trenton-Princeton campaign. The proportion of field guns to infantry was usually considerably higher in the Continental army than in the British. Washington was employing in the latter campaign almost ten pieces of field artillery per thousand infantry.<sup>29</sup> This compares with a normal proportion of three per thousand which endured from Cromwell to World War II.

Most of the early pieces in the hands of the

Continental batteries were small naval guns in storage since the peace of 1763, or captured at sea by privateers and American schooners.<sup>30</sup> British and Hessian officers in their diaries speak of iron pieces mounted in adapted naval carriages. Old obsolete iron guns were used until replacements were available.

In the British Army, the field artillery, along with other ordnance, had been revised, improved, and simplified by Müller, beginning about 1755. The new "standardized" field pieces were made of brass; however, they were far from our modern ideas of standardization. Guns produced consecutively in one foundry sometimes varied almost 10% in weight.<sup>31</sup> Even appearance as to moldings, cascabels, and the like was not constant from year to year. These Müller pieces, which were the most desirable from the point of view of Knox and the American gunners, were rare. Three of these new Müller 3-pounders became the property of the Boston Regiment in 1762.<sup>32</sup> Two of these served throughout the Revolution in the Continental artillery.<sup>33</sup>

Some modern British field pieces were captured, particularly at Saratoga, but many more were needed. Continental European weapons were ob-

<sup>30</sup> Index of Fitzpatrick, *op. cit.*, v. 4, under names of six original captains: John Manley in the *Lee*, Broughton in the *Lynch*, John Selman in the *Franklin*, Daniel Adams in the *Warren*, and William Coit in the *Harrison*.

<sup>31</sup> Eight French 4-pounders, all of the same nominal type, varied in weight from 622 to 662 French pounds when completed; these guns are now at Washington's Headquarters Museum at Newburgh, N. Y.

<sup>32</sup> MS, "Proceedings of the Boston Regiment," 1758-1771, in Mass. State Archives.

<sup>33</sup> These two are now thought to be at the top of the Bunker Hill monument. Noah Brooks, *Henry Knox, Soldier of the Revolution*, New York, 1900, 19. One was called the "Hancock"; the other the "Adams"; each is inscribed: "Sacred to Liberty. This is one of the four cannons which constituted the whole of the field artillery possessed by the British Colonies of North America at the commencement of the war, on the 19th of April 1775. This cannon and its fellows belonging to a number of citizens of Boston were used in the many engagements during the war. The other two, the property of the government of Massachusetts were taken by the enemy . . ." What precisely this means is not clear; however, the assumption is that these were probably two of the three described in footnote 32 above.

<sup>27</sup> Edward E. Curtis, *The Organization of the British Army in the American Revolution*, New Haven, 1926, 7. Pausch, however, indicates that the Hesse-Hanau artillery company brought along as regular soldiers some drivers and "wagon-masters" as well as blacksmiths.

<sup>28</sup> Fairfax Downey, "Birth of the Continental Artillery," *MC&H*, VII, 61.

<sup>29</sup> Knox to Mrs. Knox, 28 December 1776; there were 18 pieces of artillery to about 2,200 infantry. Drake, *op. cit.*

tained in various ways. Both brass and iron field pieces were cast in this country and enough were found to arm all the companies that could be raised and trained.

The French sent the American Government, even before the Alliance, many field pieces.<sup>34</sup> The most common were two general models of 4-pounders, but 8-pounders were also received.<sup>35</sup> In addition, some Hessian and other German artillery was taken at Trenton, and perhaps Yorktown. It was thought at one time that German field pieces were taken at Bennington and around Saratoga; however, the Hesse-Hanau artillery company was rearmed after its arrival in Canada with British pieces.<sup>36</sup> Little in connection with the German pieces is now known, save that their pounds and inches were widely at variance with the French and English systems which differed moderately from each other. One of the Hessian 3-pounders captured at Trenton was found to have a considerably larger bore than either the British 3-pounders or the French 4-pounders.<sup>37</sup> Knox had it bored out to fire the British and American 6-pounder ammunition.<sup>38</sup> Apparently, the Hessians thought their own system much superior even to Müller's; these variations certainly created problems in maintenance and supply, which the British, at least in Burgoyne's campaign, solved by leaving the Hessian pieces behind.

<sup>34</sup> *Encyclopedia Britannica*, 14th ed., VII, 107. J. W. Fortescue (*A History of the British Army*, London, 1911-1935, III, 199) says 250 pieces of artillery in 1776.

<sup>35</sup> French field guns, both 4- and 8-pounders, were lightened and shortened about 1760 according to DeTousard, *op. cit.*; surviving specimens indicate that this change took place at least four years before. Three 4-pounders now at Newburgh, cast by Berenger at Douay in 1756, are all of the new type.

<sup>36</sup> Pausch, *op. cit.*, 129, bemoans this shift. The gun now at the Bennington Museum and said to have been captured at that battle is definitely a light British 3-pounder of Müller design, cast at Woolwich under the supervision of the master gun-founders John and Peter Verbruggen in April 1776 and weighing 213 pounds at the Woolwich Arsenal. Markings identified through Charles Foulkes, *Gun-founders of England*, Cambridge, 1937. The carriage upon which this gun is now mounted is the U. S. Model 1841-1844 and varies greatly from the Müller type.

<sup>37</sup> According to DeTousard, *op. cit.*, Prussian 3-pounders had a bore of 3.52 English inches, whereas the British 3-pounder had a bore of about 3.00 inches. The French 4-pounder had a bore of about 3.31 English inches. The British and American 6-pounder had a nominal bore of 3.67 inches.

<sup>38</sup> Bernhard A. Uhlendorf and Edna Vosper, eds., *Letters from Major Baurmeister to Colonel Von Jungkenn*, Philadelphia, 1937, 17; Birkheimer, *op. cit.*, 258 note.

Both the Continental and British field artillery in the Revolution relied mainly upon 3-pounder and 6-pounder guns and 5.5-inch howitzers, although occasionally 12-pounder and even larger guns were used.<sup>39</sup> A 6-pounder in the field was more effective than a 12-pounder, even with canister, because of its greater rapidity of fire.<sup>40</sup>

Of the foreign pieces, the French 4-pounders were most used. They were usually equipped in the Continental Artillery with copies of the British Müller-type carriages. Apparently very few Gribeauval carriages accompanied the tubes; none seems to have been used in the field.<sup>41</sup> Although not numerically common, the French 8-pounder gun is interesting. Because of the difference between British and French pounds, the bore diameter of this weapon was almost identical with the British and American 9-pounder.<sup>42</sup>

Transportation limited the size of field pieces during the war. A 6-pounder complete with carriage weighed between 850 and 1,200 pounds, which was about the maximum that could be satisfactorily transported on a single pair of wheels over Colonial roads. A 5.5-inch field howitzer weighed a bit less. A 4-pounder French gun in the Müller carriage weighed a little more.

The 3-pounders which survive indicate a tube weight of from 125 to 400 pounds. This extreme variation can be explained in part by two fairly distinct functions of pieces of this caliber. They were used as field guns proper and as infantry weapons. The infantry gun, while of the same nominal bore diameter, was much lighter than the field gun which weighed from about 300 pounds up.<sup>43</sup> The surviving 3-pounders from Burgoyne's expedition are lighter than standard field guns, weighing only a bit over 200 pounds, but there is evidence

<sup>39</sup> Heath, *op. cit.*, 122, refers to a light 24-pounder brass field gun which was active for a time in the Continental artillery in the North Castle area.

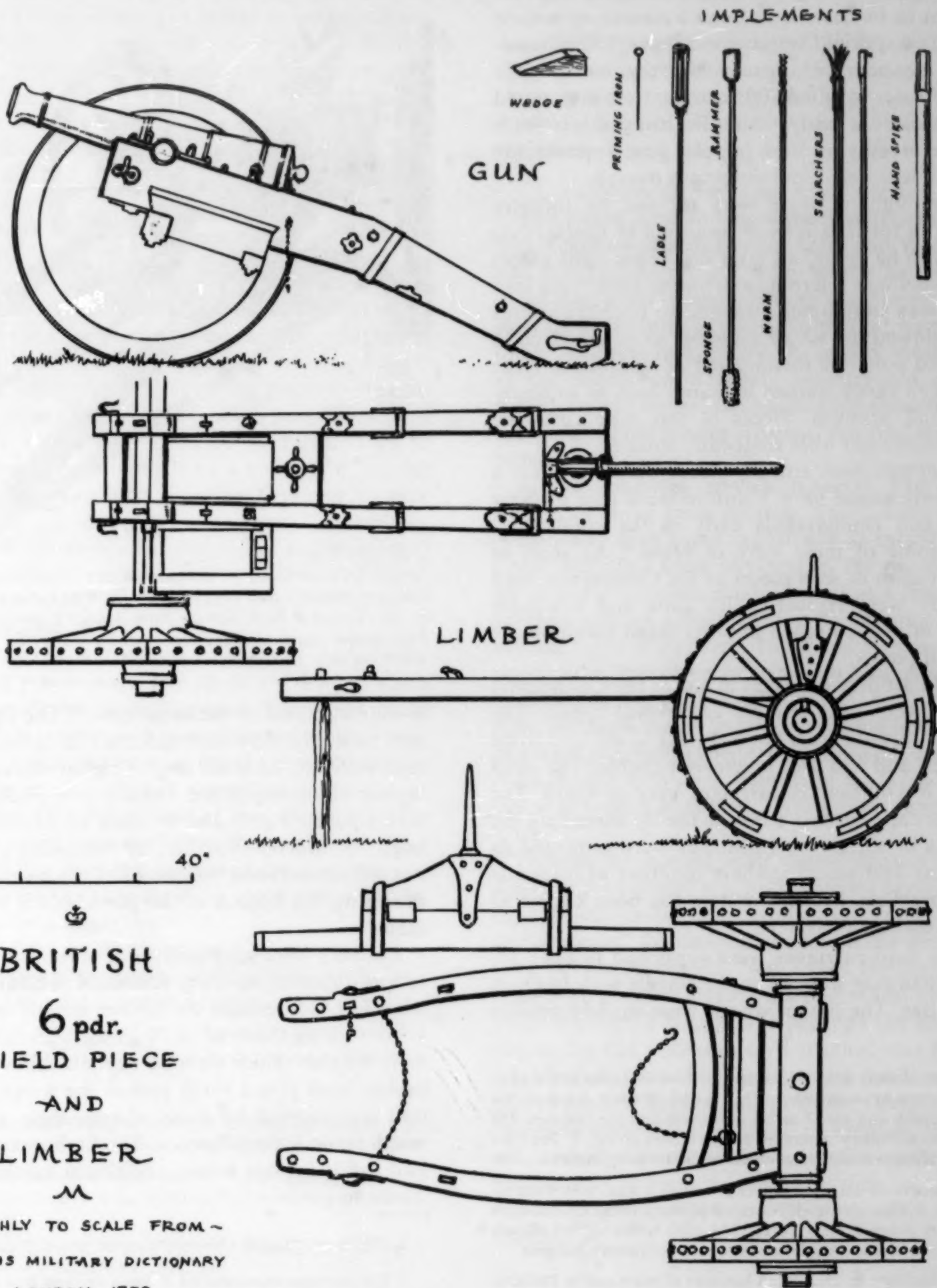
<sup>40</sup> Pausch, *op. cit.*, 170. In the Bemis Heights battle, he could have used either and chose to continue serving the 6-pounders.

<sup>41</sup> Birkheimer, *op. cit.*, 6; Colonel Harry C. Larter, Jr., "Materiel of the First American Light Artillery, 1808-1809," *MC&H*, IV, 55.

<sup>42</sup> DeTousard, *op. cit.*, 245. A French 8-pounder survives at Washington's Headquarters at Newburgh inscribed "9," "S.N.Y." and "Pd by W.P.," i.e., 9-pounder, State of New York, and an additional proof in America by an inspector whose initials were W.P.

<sup>43</sup> The two pieces mentioned in footnote 33 weighed about 282 pounds; one is so marked. Birkheimer, *op. cit.*, 201, states a Müller light 3-pounder weighed 307 pounds.





BRITISH  
 6 pdr.  
 FIELD PIECE  
 AND  
 LIMBER

ROUGHLY TO SCALE FROM -  
 SMITHS MILITARY DICTIONARY  
 LONDON, 1779

to indicate that these were special light pieces intended to be carried on pack animals as well as drawn on special Congreve carriages.<sup>44</sup> The standard 3-pounder field guns on a regular carriage would have weighed 700 pounds; four men could man-handle it fairly easily. For rugged terrain, it was deservedly the most popular gun; however, the 6-pounders were more numerous overall.

Even lighter pieces were for use by infantry either in fortifications or mounted in special carriages to be described later on. These light pieces are sometimes referred to as swivel guns.<sup>45</sup> An iron yoke was sometimes attached to both trunnions and allowed the whole assembly to be mounted in a round hole in a fortification or suitable carriage and then easily trained by hand, both as to elevation and azimuth. Pieces of this type could be 3-pounders but were frequently smaller.

Although most artillery pieces were imported, a few were made here. Cannon were cast in New York and Pennsylvania early in the conflict; at least some of these were of brass.<sup>46</sup> As soon as practical, most iron pieces in the Continental field artillery were replaced with guns and howitzers made of brass. French imports eased the shortage of field pieces.

Field artillery carriages in use in the Continental Army were undoubtedly of several types. The Müller carriage was, however, acknowledged to be the best and was used wherever possible. The axles of all Revolutionary carriages were of wood. The Müller carriage had a trail made by extending the cheeks in which the trunnions were mounted to the rear and securing them together at intervals with brackets. Müller's system has been known as the bracket-trail system.

The field carriages were supposed to take 51-inch diameter wooden spoke wheels with built-up iron tires. The limber wheels were slightly smaller

<sup>44</sup> Two of these light 3-pounders are now mounted at the Saratoga surrender monument. They weighed when finished 206 pounds each and are 37 inches long excluding the cascabel. The "mountain artillery" reference is from Curtis, *op. cit.*, 7. The Congreve carriages could be mounted on the backs of horses.

<sup>45</sup> There is an excellent swivel gun of this type, with yoke attached, at Moore's Creek National Military Park. J. G. Simcoe (*Military Journal*, New York, 1844, 124) refers to "his swivels fixed upon blocks" which accompanied his Queen's Rangers.

<sup>46</sup> Birkheimer, *op. cit.*, 257. A howitzer of brass cast in Philadelphia in 1777 by Byers survives and is on exhibition at Ticonderoga. It weighed 218 pounds and is the usual 5.5-inch field type with "U.S." between trunnions.



*Galloper carriage mounting an iron Hessian gun reproduced by the National Park Service from Muller's specifications. Photograph courtesy of the National Park Service.*

in diameter and of the same type.<sup>47</sup> The light 5.5-inch field howitzers were mounted on similar carriages with shorter trails to give higher elevation for regular and ricochet fire. These pieces could, as already pointed out, also be used to deliver high-angle, or mortar-type fire, by removing a bed of wood from between the cheeks of the carriage and dropping the breech of the piece down between them.<sup>48</sup>

Limbers were supposed to be standard, but research in contemporary accounts indicates they were not. Sometimes the limber wheels were the same size as those of the carriage; usually they were smaller. Since no load beyond the weight of limber itself plus a small part of the weight of the trail was carried by these wheels, their size and width made little difference. The limber commonly had shafts for one horse; additional animals were

<sup>47</sup> Müller, *op. cit.*, 115-116.

<sup>48</sup> The carriages reconstructed 20 years ago and now on exhibition at Yorktown National Military Park are well done; however, two limbers there are copies of French limbers thought not to have been in use during the Revolution.



hitched in tandem in front. This arrangement was poor as the piece was not nearly so easily maneuverable as with the French pole-type, side-by-side limber. Further, it was inconvenient to try to employ more than two horses, and almost impossible to employ more than three for field artillery.<sup>49</sup>

Radically different carriages known as the "galloper" and the "grasshopper" saw some service. A few 3-pounders and light 6-pounders were mounted on a split trail type of carriage known as the "galloper." The trail itself was in the form of two heavy shafts between which a single large and vigorous horse could be hitched. Actually, this was a combination of carriage and limber; the shafts were stout enough to withstand the thrust of firing.<sup>50</sup> The "grasshopper" carriage was for even smaller pieces and had no wheels. It was a sort of cradle in which a swivel gun could be mounted. Two or more men would carry it on a battlefield; on the march it was carried in a wagon. These pieces were in theory integral parts of the arms of infantry after Von Steuben's reorganization and training.<sup>51</sup> Each battalion was supposed to have two of them; they were quite separate from the field artillery organizations.

During the Revolution, charges of gunpowder for field pieces were put up in cylindrical cloth bags, usually by the artillerymen themselves. Solid shot, shell, grape, and canister were used as projectiles. Solid shot was by far the most common; shell was used in limited quantities, mainly from howitzers. Grape and canister shot of various sizes are still being recovered from the battlefields. The dividing line between grape and canister was not definite. What was grape for a small gun might be canister for a larger one.<sup>52</sup>

Some field artillery ammunition was carried in axletree boxes mounted on either side of the gun tube. Additional supplies were carried in tumbrils, carts, and wagons of any available type; neither caissons nor limber-chests had as yet come into

use. To some extent, since powder charges were partially protected by cloth covers, field artillery was the bad-weather weapon of the Revolution. At Trenton and elsewhere, when the muskets of the infantry were temporarily useless because of the weather, the field pieces fired with commendable regularity.

#### *Artillery Organization and Training*

The Royal Artillery was already well organized. The Academy attached to the Arsenal at Woolwich had a wide reputation.<sup>53</sup> John Müller had done a great deal toward standardizing the pieces themselves and the auxiliary equipment that went with them. All these things were beautifully turned out at the Woolwich Arsenal. Artillerymen in the British service were real soldiers, even though some European gunners were civilians well into the 18th century.

In the American service, however, everything had to be done from scratch. There were many Americans with some experience as infantry officers. Very few knew anything of the proper employment of artillery. Knox as well as a few other artillery officers gained their early training in the Boston Train of Artillery. These had actually practiced under British instructors with both siege and field pieces. Throughout the rest of the Colonies, however, there seems to have been little in the way of actual practical experience, although organizations existed with some training in the larger coast cities, notably Charleston, Philadelphia, and New York.

Perhaps the greatest single contribution of Henry Knox to his country was his insistence upon training and scholarship in his artillery officers. He built an "academy" for their instruction in the winter of 1778-1779 in Pluckemin, New Jersey. He continued this same practice during his command at West Point through 1783; he was perhaps the first advocate for the military academy that was finally established there. The Continental Artillery disgraced itself at Bunker Hill under the Gridleys, but "no guns were better handled" at Trenton, Princeton, and Monmouth under Knox. This efficiency was built up in a surprisingly short time on a foundation of leadership, esprit de corps, and sound training.

<sup>49</sup> See footnotes 27 and 48 above. No side-by-side limbers were used in the British or American service until long after Yorktown.

<sup>50</sup> An excellent reproduction of a "Gallopier" carriage is now at the Moore's Creek National Military Park mounting an original iron 3-pounder.

<sup>51</sup> Samuel Richards, *Personal Narrative of an Officer in the Revolutionary War*, Philadelphia, 1909, 84.

<sup>52</sup> See footnote 10; there are so many sizes that one must conclude there was little system or standardization, at least in the American Artillery.

<sup>53</sup> The Academy was started in 1741; Curtis, *op. cit.*, 44; James Ferguson, *Two Scottish Soldiers*, Aberdeen, 1888, 59.

# THE PLATES

## DELAWARE TROOPS OF HORSE, CIRCA 1808-1810

(Plate No. 125)

The national alarm resulting from the attack of the British ship *Leopard* on the American frigate *Chesapeake* in June of 1807 found the militia forces of the United States generally unprepared for active duty. The militia from Delaware, with the exception of a very few uniformed companies of Volunteers, was not ready. In his address to the Legislature on 4 August 1807, Governor Mitchell said:

... By a letter from Henry Dearborn Esquire the Secretary of the War Department, of the 6th of July 1807, the President has called upon the Executive of this State to take effectual Measures to organize, arm and equip, according to Law, and hold in Readiness to March at a Moment's warning ... eight hundred and fourteen of the Militia of Delaware. ... The deranged State of our Militia will prevent Me from taking such prompt and efficacious measures for organizing our Proportion of the Number demanded. ... Besides being disorganized the Militia is without arms ...

An "Act to establish an Uniform Militia throughout this State" was adopted on 13 August 1807; those portions dealing with the cavalry, namely Section 4, are as follows:

... the commissioned officers of the troops of horse shall furnish themselves with good horses, of at least fourteen and an half hands high, and shall be armed with a sabre and pair of pistols, the holsters of which shall be covered with bear skin caps; each light horseman or dragoon, shall furnish himself with a good horse at least fourteen hands and an half high, a good saddle, bridle, mail pillion, and valise holsters, and a breast plate and crupper, a pair of boots and spurs, a pair of pistols, a sabre and cartouch box, to contain twelve cartridges for pistols. The artillery, light infantry, grenadiers and horse, shall be uniformly clothed in regimentals at their own expense, the color and fashion to be recommended by the brigadier commanding the brigade to which they shall belong. But the officers, and non-commissioned officers and privates of every troop or company of voluntary militia hereafter to be raised, shall be obliged to wear the uniform prescribed by the brigadier, or be considered as not belonging to such company; and all officers hereafter to be commissioned, shall likewise uniform themselves in the manner directed by the major-general; every militia-man shall appear so armed and accoutred, when called out to exercise, or into service.<sup>1</sup>

Thomas Robinson was appointed major general of the three brigades of the Militia of the State of Delaware on 21 September 1807. Robinson issued his general orders "For the Uniform of the Militia

of the State of Delaware" on 24 November 1807. He specified blue faced with buff for the generals and staff, and blue faced red for the regimental officers.<sup>2</sup> An existing uniform coat of this period is displayed in the Historical Society of Delaware in Wilmington. The coat was worn by Captain Aaron Swiggett; he was commissioned lieutenant in the First Company of the Ninth Regiment on 12 January 1809, and appointed captain of this same company on 27 June 1812. He is believed to have worn this coat while on active duty at Lewistown (now Lewes) in 1813. The blue coat has red collar, cuffs and facings with white lining and turn backs; in general it appears to follow the orders of General Robinson.

John Stockton of New Castle County was appointed brigadier of the First Brigade on 5 February 1808. One of his first official acts was to issue orders for the dress of the troops under his command.

Brigade Orders, for the uniform to be worn by the companies of Cavalry, Artillery, and Light-Infantry attached to the First Brigade of the Militia of the State of Delaware. Uniform to be worn by the companies of Cavalry—Black leather caps, covered with bear skin—iron chains placed crossways under the bear skin—a red standing feather, black cockade and yellow eagle—short coats of dark blue cloth, the lappels, cuffs, and cape of scarlet—a standing cape, not more than five nor less than three inches in depth, with two buttons and laced button-holes to range with the lappels—the lappels to be five inches at the top and four inches at bottom in breadth, with ten button-holes and buttons on each lappel—cuffs four inches, with button holes worked blind—four buttons on each sleeve—pocket flaps across not exceeding nine inches nor less than seven and an half, three inches wide, four buttons and button-holes worked blind—yellow buttons—lining of skirts to be scarlet—buff vests, single breasted, with yellow buttons—buckskin small clothes—long boots with black tops—spurs—sabre, yellow mounted, from two feet eight inches to three feet long—black belt, yellow buckle—cloaks of dark blue cloth with gold cord round the collars—gold epaulets, the captains to wear one on the right shoulder, subalterns on the left. See the militia law of 1807 for the other parts of the equipment of cavalry ...

Unfortunately the regulations for the dress of the troops in the Second and Third Brigades has

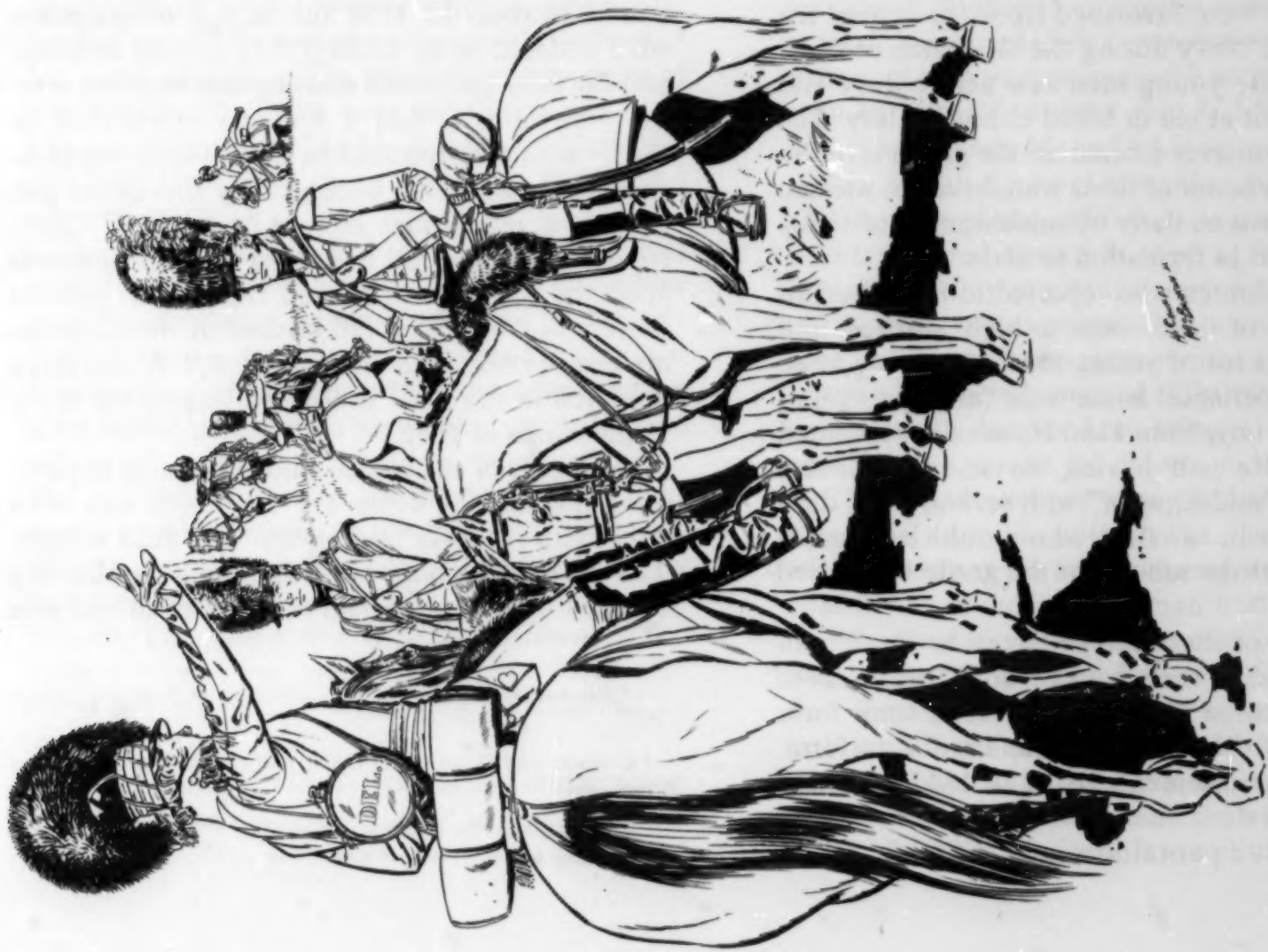
<sup>1</sup> *Delaware Archives: Military Records*, 1916, IV, 155.

<sup>2</sup> *Delaware Laws, 1806-1813*, IV, chapter XLIX, 123 (in Library of Historical Society of Delaware)

<sup>3</sup> *The Museum of Delaware & General Advertiser*, 12 December 1807.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, 5 March 1808.



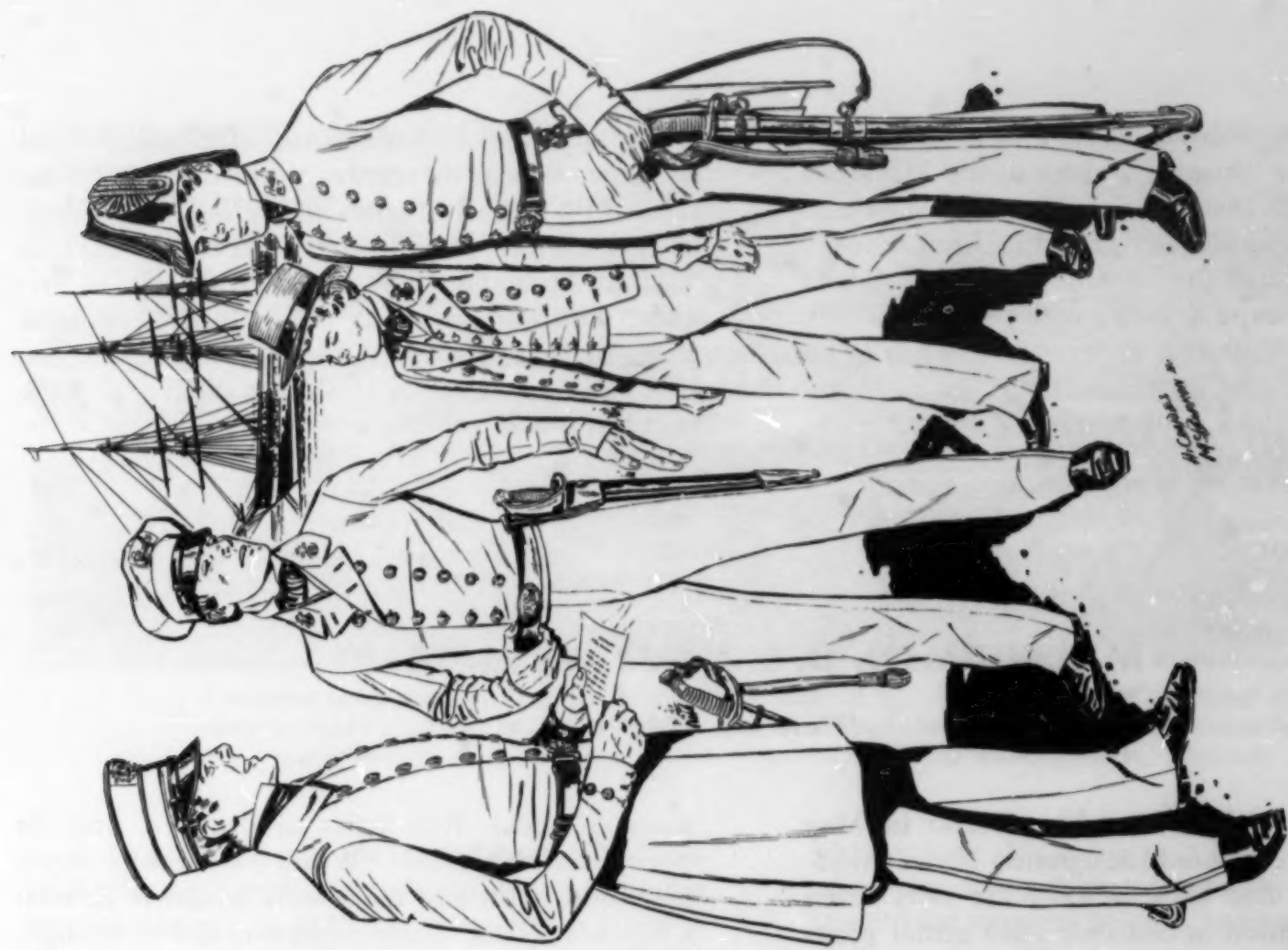


*Captain John Fisher's Troop*

*Captain Wm. Shankland's Troop*

*Captain John Crew's Troop*

Delaware Troops of Horse, Circa 1808-1810



*Passed Midshipman, Undress*

*Midshipman, Service Dress*

*Midshipman, Full Dress*

Midshipmen, U. S. Navy, 1852-1869

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not been as yet uncovered. However, we are fortunate that the "Annual Return of the Militia of the State of Delaware" for the years 1808 and 1810 report the dress.<sup>3</sup> Captain John Crow's Troop of Horse of the First Brigade was "A blue coat with red cape & faced with red, Cuffs with Yellow cord, Buff vest & small clothes, Yellow buttons, Leather Cap bears skin, blue sash, red feather, Blackstock, long boots and spurs."

<sup>3</sup> *Delaware Archives, op. cit.*, 181-184, 289-292.

Captain John Fisher's Troop of Horse, Second Brigade, was quite similarly uniformed: "Blue faced with red, short cotes, lining red, white Vest, Buckskin breeches, long boots and caps." Captain William Shankland's Troop of Horse, Third Brigade, was uniformed in "Blue turned up with Buff. Yellow trimmings. Leather Cap. Bearskin, buff band, black leather cockade. Yellow eagle & standing bucks tail."

*H. Charles McBarron, Jr.  
Alban P. Shaw, III*

## MIDSHIPMEN, U. S. NAVY, 1852-1869

(Plate No. 126)

When war was declared with Mexico in May 1846, the Naval School (designated Naval Academy in 1850) had been in existence only seven months. Founded in October 1845 under plans formulated by George Bancroft, Secretary of the Navy, the newly established school was able to send midshipmen to serve in the fleet even in this early stage of development. Altogether some 90 midshipmen were furnished from the school for service in the Navy during the War with Mexico. Many of these young men saw active duty and some were lost at sea or killed in line of duty. The first monument ever erected on the grounds of the school was in honor of those who served in Mexico and it can be seen daily by midshipmen of today as they march in formation to class.

The midshipmen who reported to the school in the autumn of 1845 were a high spirited and heterogenous lot of young men of varying ages, sizes, and experience. Some were "acting midshipmen," that is boys from 13 to 16, usually appointed from civil life and having no sea experience; others were "midshipmen" with several years duty behind them in the fleet who would be eligible after a year at the school for the grade of "passed midshipmen."

The dress of these early arrivals to the school was as varied as their backgrounds and most of them were attired in civilian clothes or some form of semi-nautical outfit that was hardly uniform. Minimum requirements listed in 1847 provided for one good dark blue cloth jacket and vest, one pair dark blue pantaloons, six white shirts, six

pairs of socks, four pairs of drawers, and six pocket handkerchiefs.<sup>1</sup> White pantaloons, straw hats, blue caps, and shoes were added to this list a few years later. These articles could be brought from home or purchased at the school from the civilian storekeeper who operated a concession in the grounds. No distinctive marks or insignia are mentioned as being part of these first officially required clothes. In 1850 the acting midshipmen were ordered to be fitted out in special uniform and the fully warranted midshipmen with sea service, who already had a uniform established in 1841,<sup>2</sup> were now required to wear it also. All midshipmen's uniforms were shortly thereafter put into naval regulations and we find not only service dress but also full dress and undress uniforms specified for wear in March 1852.<sup>3</sup> The general patterns of uniforms established at this time remained in effect until after the Civil War and those depicted in the plate are based largely on Navy Regulations of 1852.

The figure of the passed midshipman is in service uniform. He wears the new style cap with visor with its silver foul anchor and gold wreath. The really sea-going midshipman wore this cap crushed down on top and rolled over to one side

<sup>1</sup> *Rules and Regulations for the government of the Naval School*, 1847.

<sup>2</sup> *Uniform and Dress of the Officers of the Navy of the United States*, 1841.

<sup>3</sup> *Regulations for the Uniform and Dress of the Navy and Marine Corps of the United States*, March 1852.





*A woodcut made about 1850 shows the distinctive shape of Fort Severn and part of the Naval Academy grounds. To the right is the river front and on the left the Captain's house, recitation hall, and a row of professors' houses. Reproduction from the files of the Naval Academy Museum.*

to show his contempt for landlubbers. The frock coat which was also worn in undress was another innovation which was replacing the older cut-away shown being worn by the acting midshipman in full dress. This frock coat was to see long service in the Navy and in a somewhat modified form it lasted as part of the uniform until the beginning of World War II when it was finally but not regretfully abolished along with the cocked hat and epaulettes. The shoulder straps were of gold lace, one-half inch wide and four inches long. The sword belt was plain black leather with yellow gilt belt plate and the sword was the model adopted in 1852.

The midshipman in the center foreground wears a variation of service dress actually prescribed for wear by all officers "when at sea" and commonly worn as service dress by midshipmen at the Naval School. His cap has the proper nautical flare and the silver fouled anchor is embroidered in contrast to the collar anchors which were made of metal and gilded. The round-a-bout jacket was usually worn unbuttoned to display a blue or white vest. Dirks although authorized in Regulations for wear by midshipmen were not permitted at the Naval School. The side arm shown is the Model 1842 cutlass which was presumably considered less lethal in the hands of sky-larking midshipmen by the authorities.

The other central figure is an acting midshipman who would probably fall into the category of a "plebe," or first year man, in today's nautical

phraseology. He is wearing the summer version of service dress which was rendered necessary by the almost tropical heat of Annapolis from June to September. The concessions to hot weather are shown in the use of straw hats and white duck or linen vests and pantaloons. The straw hats had been in use since 1836 by officers and men for service on shipboard in tropical stations. The ship in background is U.S.S. *Constellation* which served as school ship at Annapolis for many years along with her illustrious sister ship U.S.S. *Constitution* and other vessels of the Old Navy.

The fourth figure is a regular midshipman in all the glory of the old full dress uniform, a style which endured almost as long as the frock coat. It was probably one of the most ornamental and at the same time uncomfortable uniforms which long suffering officers were required to wear. The coat was always buttoned fully when worn and the collar is described as being no higher than necessary to permit the chin to move freely over it. The fouled anchors were embroidered in gold thread on each side of the collar. Pantaloons were without stripes for a midshipman. The uniform coat for a passed midshipman had gold lace on the front and top edge of the collar and his pantaloons sported a gold cord down the side seams of one fourth inch in width. Otherwise there was little to differentiate the two grades. The cocked hat was bound with black silk lace and had on the left side a black silk cockade held in place by two loops of gold bullion with a small navy button in

the lower end of the loop. On each end of the hat were tassels of gold and blue bullion. Epaulettes for those wonderfully decorative adjuncts to uniforms were not thought suitable for midshipmen so none were authorized for their full dress. It might be mentioned in passing that the Navy always referred to their gold striped pantaloons as "railroad trousers" and the epaulettes were irre-

verently called "swabs." Swords were the type specified as "cut and thrust" with half basket hilts and white grips. Scabbard, slings, and sword belt were of plain black glazed leather with mountings and belt plate of yellow gilt. Sword knots were of gold lace with bullion tassels.

H. Charles McBarron, Jr.  
George B. Keester

## GUILFORD GRAYS, NORTH CAROLINA MILITIA, 1860

(Plate No. 127)

During the year immediately preceeding the Civil War numerous elite militia companies sprang up throughout the South. These organizations, though often haphazardly conducted and sometimes organized more for social purposes than serious military training, proved invaluable to the Confederacy, for they offered nuclei about which the Regular Army was built. So it was with the Guilford Grays.

The Grays were organized at Greensboro, North Carolina, in 1860. The meeting from which the unit sprang was held at the local courthouse on 9 January 1860, and was attended by most of the city's young socially prominent males. They turned to Brigadier General Joab Hiatt—a North Carolina militia commander and "a favorite and friend of the young men"—for guidance.<sup>1</sup> A constitution providing for a volunteer company of infantry was adopted and signed by thirty-seven men. The company then elected a captain, 1st lieutenant, 2d lieutenant, 3d lieutenant, ensign (with the rank of lieutenant), four sergeants, four corporals and three musicians.

On 15 March—the 79th anniversary of the Battle of Guilford Courthouse—the Grays' officers received their commissions from Governor John W. Ellis and, at the same time, were presented with handsome swords by the Greensboro Female College. They met on the second floor of an old cotton factory every Friday evening for drill, following *Scott's Infantry Tactics*. Presumably the members used their own arms and wore civilian

clothing until flintlock muskets were received in April, and uniforms on the first of May. The arms had been obtained from Fayetteville Arsenal and were rusty and worn, being "very effective at the breech." The uniforms were made in Philadelphia to measurement.

The Grays' first public parade coincided with the coronation of the May Queen at nearby Edgeworth Female Seminary, on 5 May 1860, at which occasion the company received its colors, as depicted in the plate. They made a fine showing for the citizens. Dutifully the part-time soldiers had practiced their manual of arms and school of the company until they were near perfect. They assembled at the courthouse at 10 A.M. "Barrels and bayonets flashed and gleamed in the glorious May sunshine," one of them wrote, and they marched with "high heads in jaunty caps . . . with proud military step" to the music of drum and fife.

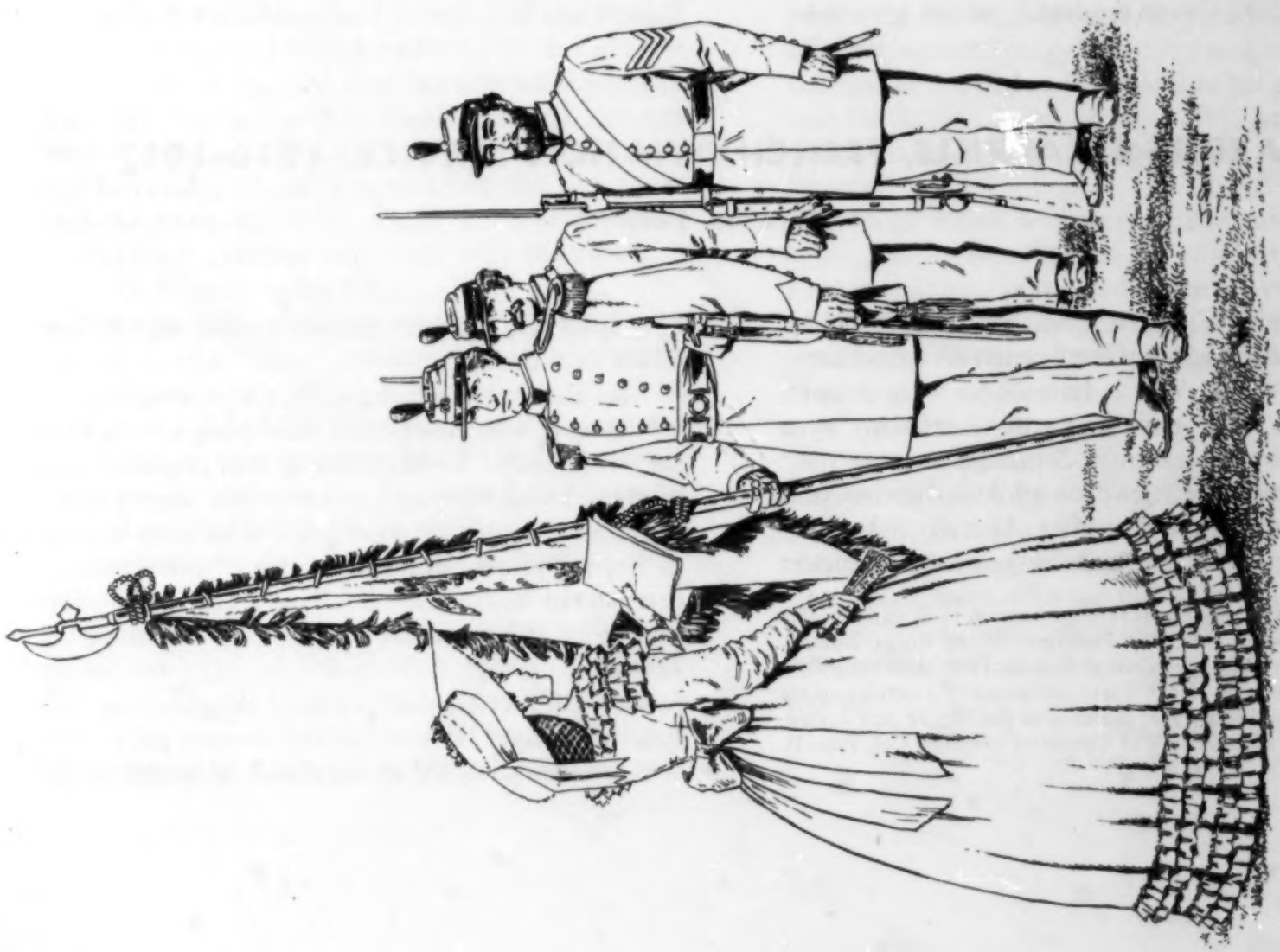
A procession designed to please everyone moved across the college lawn: fourteen maids of honor, two "Floras" scattering flowers, the Queen and her attendants, pages, and the Grays. The militia then formed before the Queen who, with a speech containing almost as many bouquets as the Floras had dispensed, made the presentation. The flag was accepted by a cadet of the North Carolina Military Institute who gave it to Ensign H. C. Gorrell. Gorell in turn recited a speech equally full of heavy cliches and platitudes.

The flag, designed by a local citizen, had also been made in Philadelphia. It bore, painted on one side, the arms of North Carolina, while the other had a wreath with an inscription from the Seminary.

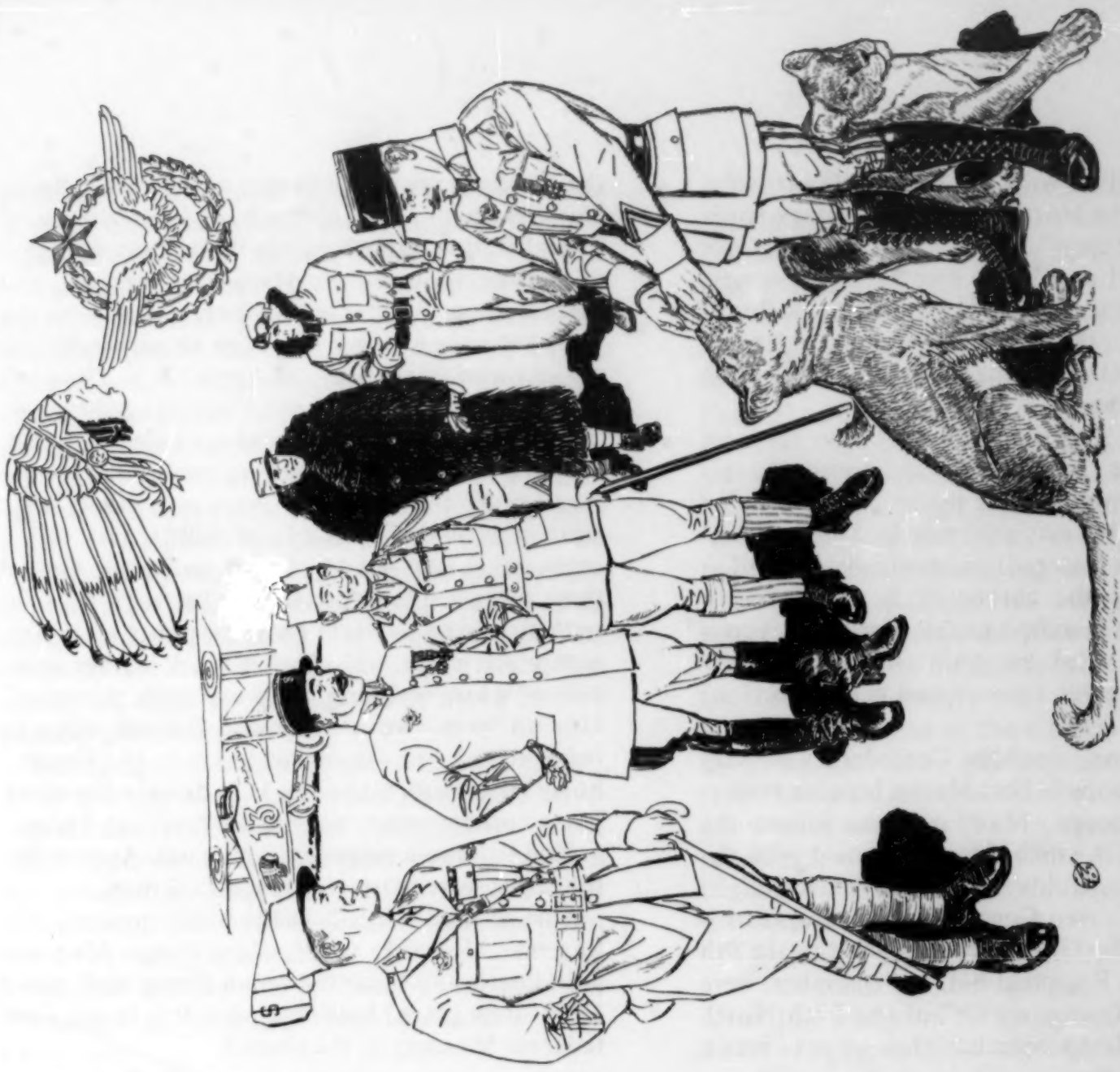
Later in the year the Grays visited Hillsboro,

<sup>1</sup> All quotes are from John A. Sloan, *Reminiscences of the Guilford Grays*, Washington, 1883. See also Walter Clarke, ed., *Histories of the Several Regiments and Battalions from North Carolina in the Great War, 1861-1865*, Goldsboro, N. C., II, 424-463.





Guilford Grays, North Carolina Militia, 1860



Sergeant Pilot

Lieutenant Pilot,  
Dragon Uniform

Sergeant Pilot  
Fringe Cap

Flying Clothes

Lieutenant, Aviation Service  
Dress Uniform

Lafayette Escadrille, French Aviation Service, 1916-1917

where they drilled with the Orange Guards for the cadets of the North Carolina Military Institute. A "public show" was given on Washington's birthday in 1861 and, on its own first anniversary, the company, together with the Rowan Rifles of Salisbury, N. C., the Danville, Virginia, Blues and Grays, and the Orange Guards, formed a battalion for the celebration.

On 18 April 1861 the Guilford Grays received orders from the Governor to report immediately to the state commander of the recently occupied Fort Macon. This was a former U. S. Army sea-coast fort (now restored), strategically located at the entrance to the harbor of Beaufort, North Carolina. They marched to the depot and, forty-five strong, boarded the train that was to take some of them away forever and others for four years.

North Carolina joined the Confederacy 20 May 1861 and the troops at Fort Macon became twelve-month state troops. Many recruits joined the Grays at the fort which they garrisoned with the Orange Guards, Goldsboro Rifles, Wilson Light Infantry, and Craven County Woodpeckers (artillery). In June the Grays were assigned to the 9th North Carolina Regiment but, in September, were reassigned as Company "B" of the 27th North Carolina. This last association they were to retain throughout the war.

The Guilford Grays rendered valiant service to

the Confederacy at the battles of Newbern, Seven Days, Harper's Ferry, Sharpsburg, Fredericksburg, Bristol Station, Mine Run, the Wilderness, Spottsylvania Courthouse, Cold Harbor, Petersburg and Appomattox. A total of 180 men served with the unit, but only a dozen were left to surrender "in dignity and in silence" 10 April 1865. They left comrades forever across the Virginia countryside, for more than ten percent had been killed in action.

The presentation of the flag was probably the most colorful showing the Grays ever made. They were at their height as a local militia unit, full of enthusiasm and proud of their uniforms. One of them left a written description: "a frock coat . . . with two rows of State buttons, pants to match, with black stripe, waist belt of black leather, cross belt of white webbing, gray cap with pompon." One uniform—worn by Ensign Gorrell, when he received the flag,—survives today at the Greensboro Historical Museum. It is double breasted, but a contemporary tintype of Corporal Thomas J. Sloan shows a single breasted coat. Apparently, the latter were worn by the enlisted men.

One of the swords is at the local museum. The flag was blue silk, with yellow fringe, blue and gold tassel, and mounted on an ebony staff which has a silver plated battleaxe pike. It is in the Confederate Museum in Richmond.

John P. Severin

Milton F. Perry

## LAFAYETTE ESCADRILLE, FRENCH AVIATION SERVICE, 1916-1917

(Plate No. 128)

The Lafayette Escadrille was the 124th Scout Squadron (*Escadrille*) of the French Aviation Service during World War I. Its officers were French and its men were American volunteers who, with two exceptions, were non-commissioned pilots.<sup>1</sup> Appropriately, the squadron took for its insignia the head of a war-whooping American Indian, which was painted on the fuselage of the Nieuport

<sup>1</sup> This note is based upon James Norman Hall and Charles Bernard Nordhoff, eds., *The Lafayette Flying Corps*, Boston, 1920; and their *Falcons of France*, Boston, 1940. Also the paintings and etchings by Henry Farre contained in a catalog of his New York exhibition, 1918; material in the Musée de l'Armée, Paris; and the recollections of COMPANY Member Col. John H. Hunter, 2nd.

and Spad single-seater pursuit planes which were flown into battle.

The Lafayette Flying Corps was a larger organization, which served a dual purpose: it kept the "Escadrille" up to its strength of 18 pilots, and it also found employment for the many other eager and impatient Americans who won brevets as French pilots before their own country entered the war, in April 1917. In all, 209 Lafayette pilots served in 102 different squadrons, including the 124th.

The Lafayette pilot had no distinguishing uniform or badge. He was merely another *poilu*, who was qualified to fly an airplane. If some of the



men made the most of this in their dress, it was because they were young, in a young service, and represented a young and big country in a big war.

The many photographs illustrating *The Lafayette Flying Corps*, by James Norman Hall and Charles Bernard Nordhoff, show the adaptability of the French aviation uniform when put on the square shoulders of an American volunteer. There are snap-shots showing the pilot in the French equivalent of "the old brown suit," so deplored by the British regular; and there are studio portraits which show the pilot as he wanted to be thought of by the folks at home. So great is the disparity between the two that one is forced to acknowledge, reluctantly, the many adjustments made to the uniform before its wearer left the studio, in order to make it more pleasing to a passing gendarme.

The figures in our picture reflect a norm, arrived at by a study of the snap-shot photographs, in conjunction with individual biographies which describe service affiliations prior to enlistment in the Flying Corps, and thus account for variations in uniform. For example, one Lafayette pilot favours the big beret of the *Chasseur Alpin*, to which one finds he was entitled by service in the American Volunteer Ambulance attached to the *Chasseurs*.

The first seven Lafayette pilots entered aviation via the 1914 red-trousered infantry of the French Foreign Legion. Neither picture nor text gives a positive proof that red trousers flew on American legs, but it certainly is probable that red trousers were worn. Our picture shows a French officer of the Lafayette Escadrille, wearing the red pants and dragoon tunic to which he was entitled, adapted for aviation and worn with the chic of a pre-war French career officer.

The regulation uniform for aviation is worn by the figure in the right foreground. He is correctly dressed, and wears on his left breast the squadron insignia of "Spad 3": the silver stork with wings down-thrust. He is being given an enthusiastic welcome by "Whiskey" and "Soda," the lion-cub mascots of the Lafayette Escadrille.

Although the dark blue-black of aviation, borrowed from the Engineer Corps, was the correct dress, strictly speaking, horizon blue was the universal uniform of the French Army in World War I. The pilot standing behind the dragoon lieutenant wears this color. The sergeant in the left foreground wears the horizon blue tunic with

collar and tie, in the fashion made popular by British officers. Many French soldiers, by preference, wore hunting-stocks of horizon blue beneath either type of collar.

The usual headgear was the kepi (colored according to the branch of service) and the *bonnet de police*. The latter was always horizon blue. From the photographs, one sees an indication that the white kepi of the Foreign Legion was worn by some Lafayette pilots, all of whom had signed on as legionnaires. High laced boots were the ideal for the well-dressed pilot, though riding-boots were also popular. For flying, however, spiral puttees, golf hose, or oxfords with slacks seem to have been adopted for comfort and warmth.

The two figures in the background wear flying-kit. The furred overalls were usual, even in a war where the Cavalry of the Clouds was known to fly dawn patrols in gay pajamas. Be that as it may, the pilot or observer in an open-cockpit plane over northern France, even on late Spring mornings, would consider himself lucky to have available a bearskin overcoat such as is worn by the other background figure.

The badge of the Flying Corps was the Wing and Star collar ornament. On the dark dress uniform, this was worn on an orange-colored patch, and on the front of the kepi, without the colored patch. The pilot's badge was worn on the right breast of all uniforms. A sergeant wore on his sleeve wings and propeller in red and white. Above the figures are drawn in detail the badge of a pilot and the Indian Head of the Lafayette Escadrille, which also appears on the Spad in the background.

Medals, which were very numerous in the Lafayette, were worn either as ribbons or, in the French manner, as full decorations, even on working clothes. The figure standing with the dragoon wears, in addition, the fourragère of the Legion of Honor, a distinction of his squadron for multiple citation.

A careful appraisal of the uniform worn by the Lafayette pilots, based on the many available photographs and contemporary paintings, indicates the true character of that corps: a dash and élan which were reflected in his dress uniform, yet (especially in his "work clothes") a seriousness compatible with the job for which he had volunteered.

Frederick T. Chapman  
Harrison K. Bird, Jr.



*The regimental number of the 7th Cavalry appears on Custer's helmet plate in this photograph taken about 1874; Custer's yellow facings have photographed black. From the Custer Battlefield National Monument.*



## COLLECTOR'S FIELD BOOK

### REGIMENTAL NUMBERS ON HELMET PLATES

The excellent article, "Branch Insignia of Cavalry and Armor, 1872-1956" (*MC&H*, VIII, 35-39) refers to the white metal regimental number shown on the helmet plate pictured in the illustrated edition of the 1872 Uniform Regulations, and goes on to state: "We have been unable to uncover any other evidence that regimental numbers were worn elsewhere than on the collar in a manner similar to the pre-Civil War regulations." Perhaps the present writer may be of some assistance in this regard by stating that he has copies of photographs of ten Cavalry officers in dress uniform, all of the photographs definitely of the period 1872-1881, and in every case a regimental number is affixed to the helmet plate. While most of the officers in these photographs are of the Seventh Cavalry, two other horse regiments, the Fifth and Tenth, are represented, so that it would appear certain that Cavalry officers in general wore the regimental number on the helmet plate during the period in question.

Whether or not enlisted cavalymen wore the number on the helmet plate between 1872 and 1881, this writer is at a loss to say, having been unable to find any photographs of enlisted men in the dress uniform of that period that are either clear enough or where the helmet is so positioned as to furnish a clue. Possibly some reader may have photographs which will serve to clarify this point. The annual report of the Quartermaster-General of the Army for the fiscal year ending 30 June 1877,<sup>1</sup> contains detailed specifications, adopted 31 May 1876, for "Helmets . . . Dress-Caps . . . Forage-Caps . . . Metallic Uniform-Coat, Helmet, Dress and Forage-Cap Ornaments." It may be significant that, where the helmet for mounted men is described in seemingly every particular, including its plate, there is not a word concerning a regimental number to appear on the plate. On the other hand, there are described numbers for the coat collar (" . . . of sheet brass . . . one-half inch long; edges bevelled . . .") and numbers and company letters for the forage-cap (" . . .

of sheet brass . . . five-eighths of an inch long . . . edges bevelled . . .").

When G.O. No. 4, AGO, 7 January 1881, announced the adoption of helmets for widespread use in the Army, it was specified therein that helmets (aside from summer helmets) for officers of field and company grade should bear the helmet plate (or "eagle" as it was then termed) "with . . . crossed cannon, rifles, or sabers . . . with the number of the regiment on the shield in white." Regarding helmets for all mounted troops, the same G.O. simply stated that they would bear "large crossed cannon or sabers, letter of company and number of regiment," there being no mention made of an "eagle." In the case of enlisted infantrymen the helmet was to bear "crossed rifles, and letter of company and number of regiment, all in brass," again no mention of the "eagle." In the specifications for helmets for foot troops, adopted on 25 March 1881,<sup>2</sup> however, there was clearly indicated the "eagle" and it was to bear "the number of the regiment . . . in white metal." It was not until the appearance of specifications for metallic ornaments for helmets, adopted 21 April 1882,<sup>3</sup> that the "eagle" for enlisted cavalymen was described as bearing crossed sabers and a regimental number, "one-half-inch in height . . . of German silver."

As for the popularity of the helmet in its original form with long, steep visor and "cape"—although on its introduction it was adjudged (perhaps naturally) by the Quartermaster's Department as "the most sightly head-gear . . . ever seen"<sup>4</sup>—complaints from the men who had perforce to wear it were soon forthcoming. Assistant Surgeon John S. Billings, in a lengthy "Report on the Hygiene of the United States Army," dated 25 April 1875, stated that "the helmet furnished is too heavy, and has too steep a visor; there is a general complaint that it causes headache."<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Annual Report of the Secretary of War, 1877*, Vol. I, Washington, 1878, 304.

<sup>2</sup> *Annual Report of the Secretary of War, 1881*, Vol. I, Washington, 1882, 320.

<sup>3</sup> *Annual Report of the Secretary of War, 1882*, Vol. I, Washington, 1883, 320.

<sup>4</sup> *Annual Report of the Secretary of War, 1873*, Vol. I, Washington, 1874, 152.

<sup>5</sup> *A Report on the Hygiene of the U. S. Army, With Descriptions of Military Posts. Circular No. 8, Surgeon-General's Office, War Dept., May 1, 1875*, Washington, 1875, xlix.

<sup>1</sup> *Annual Report of the Secretary of War, 1877*, Vol. I, Washington, 1878, 263-267.

G.O. No. 76, AGO, 23 July 1879, embodies the conclusions of a Board On Army Equipment that was convened at Washington in December 1878. The Board had this to say on the subject of "The Dress Hats" (page 17):

The present shako and helmet of the Infantry, Cavalry, and Artillery are objectionable and cause great dissatisfaction. They are of poor material (felt) and badly shaped, and the Board accordingly recommends for all officers and men of the line of the Army the helmets of the patterns herewith submitted . . . [There follow brief descriptions of helmets substantially of the patterns adopted in 1881.]

General of the Army William T. Sherman, in a letter addressed to the Secretary of War, dated 15 July 1879 (included in G.O. No. 76), undertook to review the entire report of this Board, which contained sixty-two distinct recommendations. Sherman took up each recommendation individually, throwing in characteristically pungent observations regarding some of them. With Recommendation 38 ("The adoption of helmets of patterns submitted for all persons in the line of the Army"), "Uncle Billy" dealt as follows:

*Disapproved.*—The present uniforms are good enough—helmets for mounted troops, hats for foot troops.

The Board having recommended a number of other changes in the uniform, testy Sherman was moved to fulminate on this whole subject of change:

*Disapproved.*—Changes in uniform should be very rare . . . The uniform worn during the Civil War became familiar to every man, woman, and child in the country, and should never have been changed; and if any change is now to be attempted it should be back toward that then worn and made historic . . .

Although Sherman's views and recommendations were backed up practically one hundred percent by the Secretary of War in that worthy's indorsement to the report of the Board, the old campaigner's objection to the proposed helmets was soon overcome, at least officially, for on 16 November 1880, he referred to the Quartermaster-General, for action, "a voluminous petition of officers of the Army, of all arms of the service, for a change in their uniform hat, and asking that helmets be adopted, similar to those recommended by the Board on Army Equipment, convened by Special Orders, War Department, November 11, 1879."<sup>6</sup> Following publication of G.O. No. 4, 1881, the Quartermaster-General, in line with the strict economy in Army expenditures

so much stressed in those days, caused "all of the old-pattern helmets heretofore issued to mounted troops" to be called in to the Philadelphia depot, where they were "altered to conform to the new style."<sup>7</sup>

James S. Hutchins



#### CARTRIDGE BOX PLATE

This cartridge box plate, illustrated herewith actual size, is of brass with wire loop fasteners. It bears a panoply of arms frequently seen as a decorative device in ornaments of the 1832-1840 period. What makes it unusual is that this particular device is rarely seen reproduced on a cartridge box plate. The plate was probably made for militia, but any information that would identify it further would be appreciated.

J. Duncan Campbell

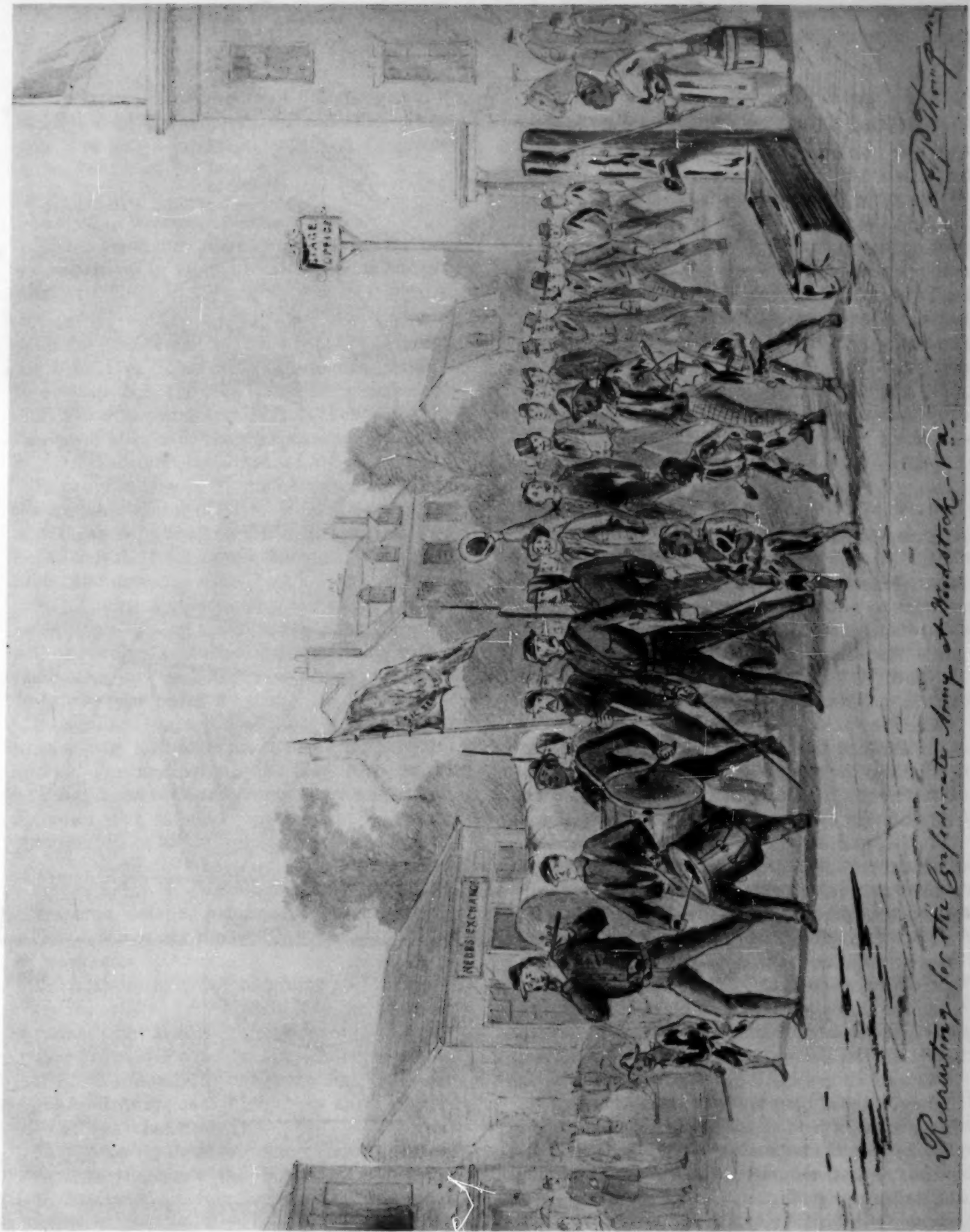
#### RECRUITING FOR THE CONFEDERATE ARMY AT WOODSTOCK, VIRGINIA, 1861

The accompanying illustration is a pencil sketch, touched up with light watercolor tones, by one Thompson (whose initials I can't decipher). The drawing was done up as a wood cut and published, probably in *Harper's Weekly*, in the spring of 1861.

The standard being carried is the Virginia State flag. The color bearer and color guard wear an odd type of forage cap, with bag and tassel hanging down the left side. The same cap is depicted in *Harper's* on several Southern units in 1861. It seems probable that it is patterned after the Sicilian caps made famous as a symbol of liberty by Garibaldi's liberation of Sicily in 1860.

<sup>6</sup> *Annual Report of the Secretary of War, 1881, Vol. I, Washington, 1882, 284.*





Recruiting for the Confederate Army at Woodstock - Va.

The children scampering along beside the parade are certainly enjoying the brave martial music.

*A. M. Craighead*

#### QUESTION: RUSSIAN TROOPS IN ALASKA

Can any one provide information as to the uniforms worn by the Russian troops who were in Alaska at the time it was turned over to the United States (18 October 1867)? It may be assumed that their dress approximated that worn in Russia itself at the period, but the remoteness from the Motherland and the infrequency of contact make it probable that there were significant differences between the uniform-of-the-day in Moscow and Sitka at any given time.

Were there ever any regular Russian troops in California or elsewhere on the West Coast?

*Edward Ryan*

#### MEXICAN ARMY SHAKOS

As a commentary on the interesting item (*MC&H*, VIII, 53) concerning Member R. H. Bettel's French leather shako of the 1860's in U. S. service, it might be noted that shakos of practically identical shape, material, and appearance had served in the Mexican army without interruption for over 70 years, roughly from 1843 to 1913. A black leather shako of the same type was in use since before the Mexican-American war. It was generally adopted as a gala headgear for officers and service cap for troops in the uniform regulations of June 1853 including the V-triangles at sides, and pompon or plume in front. In 1879, its use was discontinued for officers but remained as standard parade and service headgear for troops of all branches, equipped with round pompon on brass stem, although the V-straps were abolished. In July 1898, the V's were re-introduced, and remained until the standing Federal Army and its uniforms were abolished in 1913. Throughout this time, the shako was made of black leather, with black patent leather cinch band, counter-cinch and triangles, air-vents at the sides, black leather visor and chinstrap, the visor rectangular with slightly rounded corners, and a metal unit number or emblem in front above the cinch band. The sketches were made after contemporary lithographs and after detail drawings accompanying the uniform regulations of 1896-1899.

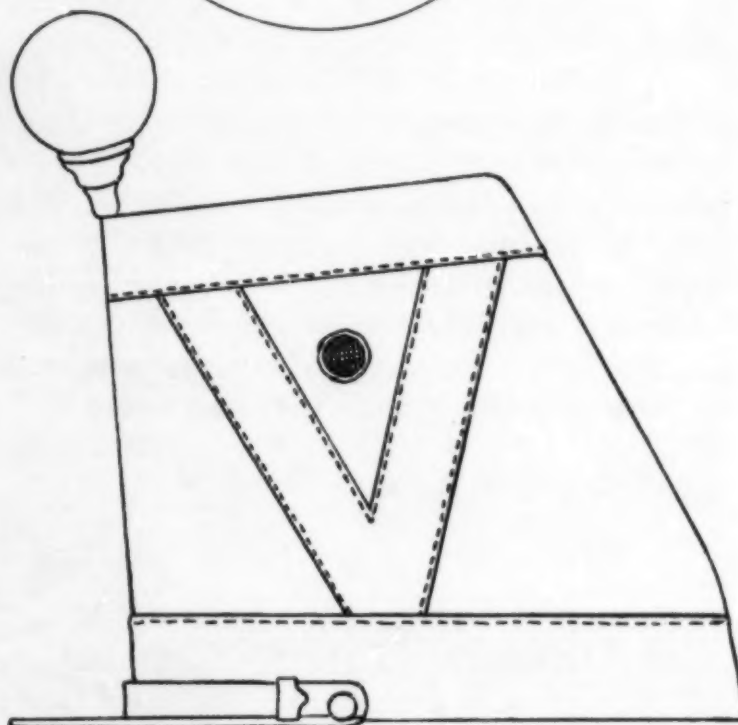
*J. Hefter*



1847



1875



1898



M. A. R. S.  
Apartado 517  
Mexico 1. D.F.



# GAZETTE

The Secretary has announced the acceptance by the Board of Governors of the following gentlemen into active membership in THE COMPANY:

Mr. Frank Acuna, Los Angeles, California  
 Dr. James D. Atkinson, McLean, Virginia  
 Mr. Donald W. Holst, Washington, D. C.  
 Mr. George Woodbridge, Brooklyn, New York

These gentlemen were chosen to fill the only four openings in THE COMPANY's membership of 600.

\* \* \*

With the membership of THE COMPANY at its ceiling of 600, the Board of Governors can in the future accept only the number of new members required to fill existing vacancies. It is expected that there will always be far more candidates for admission than there are openings.

In order to choose for membership those individuals who will make the most valuable members and those to whom membership will be most beneficial, the Board must learn all it can about each candidate.

At its meeting in November the Board decided, accordingly, that in the future member seconders will be required to write letters on behalf of their candidates, just as sponsors have been required to do for the past year and a half.

In addition, each candidate will be asked to write a letter discussing his interests, his activities, and his aims and goals in the field. Also, he will be called upon to furnish concrete evidence of his activities such as one or more of the following: photographs of his collection, a published article about it, copies or photostats of articles printed, a copy or a review of a book published, photostats of research, detailed pictures or actual figures of military miniatures made or painted, samples of art work, etc.

The responsibility for obtaining all letters and other material and forwarding it to the Secretary in proper order is that of the sponsor.

The Board will consider applicants for admission twice annually, at its Spring and Fall meetings (the former generally in May and the latter generally in late October).

The reason for these procedures deserves repetition: it is to enable the Board to choose for THE COMPANY the best applicants for the few available openings from among the many appli-

cants. Equal consideration will be shown collectors and creative workers, students and recognized authorities.

\* \* \*

Important changes were made in both the organization and personnel filling the posts of COMPANY officers at the 3 November Board meeting in New York.

Colonel Harry C. Larter, Jr., USA (Ret.), President since 1952, our beloved "Old Horse," resigned after a tremendously successful and exciting period of growth for THE COMPANY, and Captain Harrison Kerr Bird, Jr., was elected to replace him. Colonel Larter will continue as a member of the Board of Governors and, we hope, as a contributor to the *MC&H* and to our plate series. Captain Bird, who served in the British Army during World War II and was wounded and decorated for gallantry in action (Military Cross), is a lumberman in New York's Adirondack Mountains. He too has been a frequent *MC&H* contributor.

The posts of executive vice-president have been abolished as not being completely necessary, as have been those vice presidencies for which there were no specific duties or assignments. Major Charles West is now THE COMPANY's only Vice-President, and he holds that title in addition to that of Secretary because of the policy-speaking nature of the secretariat of THE COMPANY. In the event of the President's inability to serve, the Vice-President would act as chief executive only until the Board can meet to elect a successor.

Another extremely important change was that of the position of Editor-in-Chief. From that post, after making uncountable and invaluable contributions to THE COMPANY and its editorial productions, goes COMPANY Founder, ex-President, and Governor Colonel Frederick P. Todd, Director of the West Point Museum, who is stepping down in order to devote more time to his writings in the field of American military history. His replacement is another *MC&H* and plate contributor, Lieutenant Colonel John H. Magruder, III, Curator of the Marine Corps, who has been extremely interested in museum work and one of THE COMPANY's most active workers in the field.

President Bird and Vice President West took over their new offices at the 3 November meeting,

while Colonel Magruder will take up the reins as Editor in Chief with the Spring 1957 issue of the *MC&H*. Colonel Magruder will announce his editorial staff in the near future.

★   ★   ★

The Secretary has announced the results of the recent Governors' election, which was, in his words, "the closest in the history of THE COMPANY."

Elected to the panel to serve until Dec. 31st 1959 are the following:

Colonel Frederick P. Todd, USAR, of Cornwall, N. Y.  
Mrs. John Nicholas Brown of Providence, R. I.  
Lt. Col. Fairfax Downey, USAR (Ret.) of Springfield, N. H.  
Lt. Col. F. Brooke Nihart, USMC

★   ★   ★

The Gazette of the Fall 1956 issue carried an announcement of the proposed establishment of the class of Fellow of THE COMPANY (F.Co.). The article mentioned that an amendment to the By-Laws was being prepared for submission to the membership for ratification and that it was planned that a special committee of five members would be chosen to select twenty additional Fellows.

At its 3 November meeting the Board of Governors approved the amendment, which will be sent to all members for approval early in 1957. The members of the Committee of Five chosen by the Board are:

Colonel Frederick P. Todd, *Chairman*  
Mr. Harold L. Peterson  
Mrs. John Nicholas Brown  
Colonel Harry C. Larter, Jr.  
Mr. H. Charles McBarron, Jr.

The By-Laws of THE COMPANY provide for a vote of a clear majority for amendment. With the membership now at 600, that means that at least 301 members must vote either for or against the proposal either to pass or to reject it. It is hoped, therefore, that all members will vote promptly when the amendment proposal is distributed.

★   ★   ★

The seventh Annual Members Meeting of THE COMPANY will be held at West Point, N. Y. over the weekend of 17-19 May. The U. S. Hotel Thayer will be the headquarters and residence. There will be ample room to display both personal and commercial exhibits, in separate areas.

Use of the Hotel Thayer over a weekend in the spring is made possible only by the absence of the Corps of Cadets in New York City on that par-

ticular date. Thus there will be no parade at the Military Academy during the weekend. Members who especially crave to see the spectacle—and it is quite a sight—can satisfy their desire by extending their stay a few days.

This year there will be no special theme. Emphasis instead will be placed on ways of getting the most out of one's collecting or other activities in military history. All of Saturday morning will be given over to roundtable discussions of mutual interests, each group being headed by a leader in the field. Direct selling and trading will be possible in a special area set aside for the purpose.

Plans are being made for a full and active two-day meeting. It will start on Friday, at noon, and Members are urged to get there early. We can promise you an unusually stimulating and entertaining show. For special information write Colonel Frederick P. Todd, West Point Museum, West Point, New York.

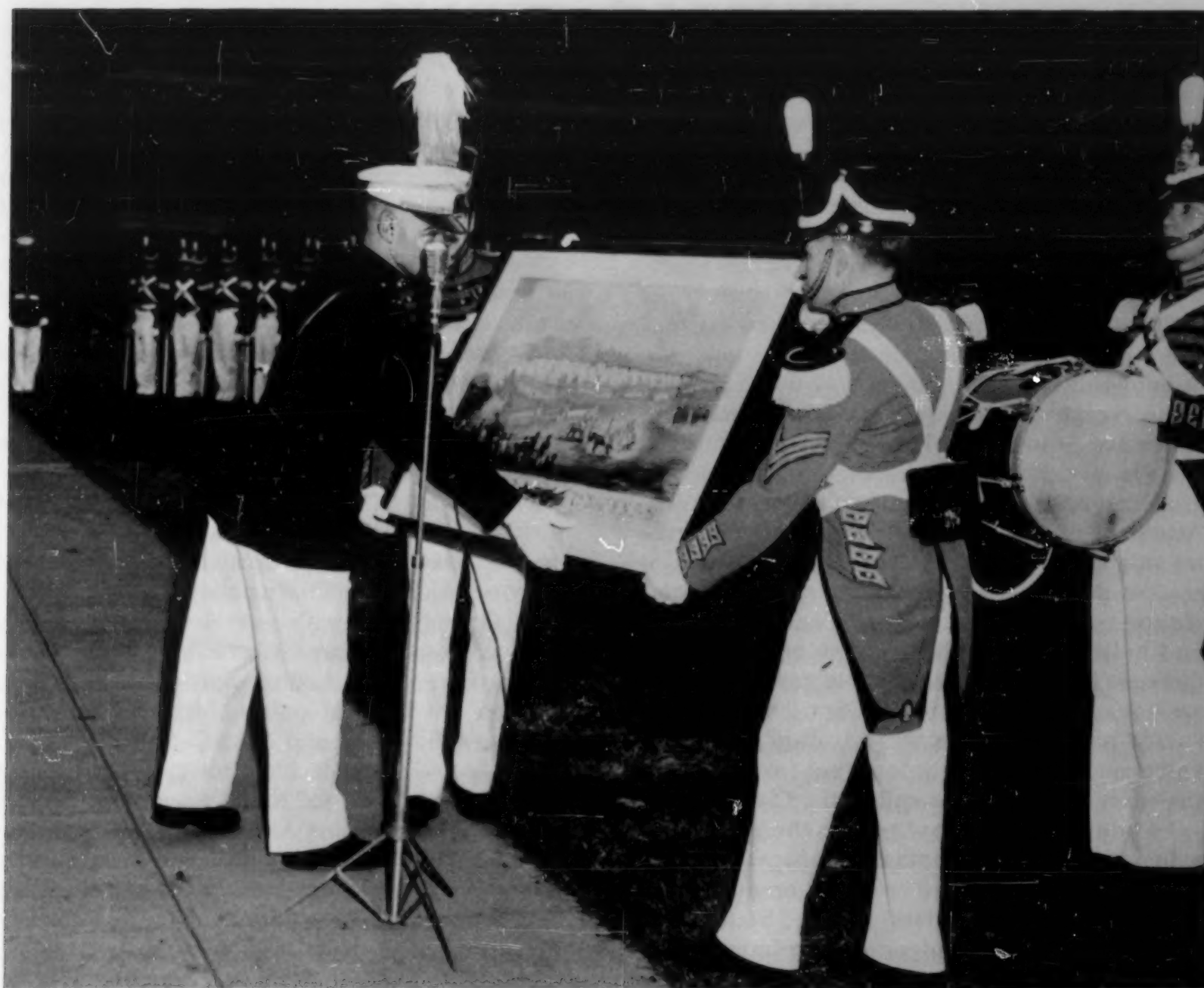
## KEEPING TRADITION ALIVE

On 12 October the most tradition-minded of the armed services saluted the most tradition-minded National Guard unit. As part of its 150th Anniversary observations, the New York Seventh Regiment participated in a sunset retreat parade of the United States Marine Corps at the Marine Barracks, Washington, D. C. Appropriately, two governors of THE COMPANY, Lieutenant Colonel John Magruder and Major Charles West, were instrumental in conceiving and arranging the affair.

It was a colorful ceremony. The red coats of the Marine Band, the blue of the Drum and Bugle Corps and Barracks Detachment, the grey dress coatees, white trousers, and shining black shakos of the platoon representing the Seventh, and the combined color guard created one of the most spectacular military pageants observed in the Capital in several years.

The Commander of the Seventh, Colonel Harry Disston, his 150th Anniversary Staff, and Major General James P. Riseley, USMC took the review. In addition to the traditional Marine marches, the Band honored their visitors with "The Gallant Seventh" by Sousa, the "Grey Jacket March," and the official Seventh Regiment march, "The Wearing of the Grey" (the words to the official march were written by Editor Frederick P. Todd).





*Photograph courtesy of Leatherneck Magazine*

The parade adjutant in publishing the orders of the day read the following citation from the President of the United States:

To the men and officers of the Seventh Regiment New York, saluted by the U. S. Marine Corps on the occasion of their 150th Anniversary Year, I send greetings.

Organized for the defense and honor of its home state and homeland, the Seventh Regiment New York has served the Nation with distinction for a century and half. As honor guard for our great soldier-ally from France, The Marquis de Lafayette, the Seventh Regiment New York was the forerunner of our National Guard units. It has a long record of individual and group heroism.

It is fitting the Seventh Regiment New York be saluted by the U. S. Marine Corps, symbolizing the mutual respect and cooperation of our Armed Forces. It is proper for this occasion to be observed here in the Capital City where the Seventh Regiment New York was once mustered ninety-five years ago. My best wishes and appreciation to all of you

who maintain the security of our Nation so that our native forces for peace can grow and prosper.

Following the formal ceremony, mementos of the occasion were exchanged. The Marines presented the Seventh with one of the Band's snare drums emblazoned with the Corps' insignia and battle honors. The Seventh reciprocated with a large and rare military print of 1855 depicting the Regiment on parade.

This memorable occasion was ended with a buffet dinner in honor of the officers of the Seventh in the Center House Mess and a similar affair for the members of the Seventh's platoon in the enlisted club.

*Lt. Col. Brooke Nihart, USMC*

## PUBLICATIONS

*Small Arms and Ammunition in the United States Service* by Col. Berkeley R. Lewis, Washington, Smithsonian Institution *Miscellaneous Collections*, v. 129, 1956, 338 pages, illustrated, \$8.00.

The small arms of the United States have been the subject for many books in the last ten years, some good, some poor. In spite of this previous activity, Member Lewis has produced an original and outstanding contribution to the existing body of knowledge. His book in no way duplicates the earlier works of Hicks and Gluckman which were concerned primarily with the identification of various models. Rather he examines the various guns from the standpoint of their performance. Also he includes an exhaustive treatment of service ammunition which has never before been covered so thoroughly. And, finally, there is a good section on equipment, including cartridge boxes and holsters. It should be noted, however, that there are limitations in the field of coverage which are not apparent from the title. Small arms as discussed in the book are firearms only plus a few knives and hatchets. Swords are not covered. Also, the study stops with the end of the Civil War.

In addition to the text proper there is a very valuable appendix of some ninety pages. In it are printed a number of hard to obtain original documents, including the digests of United States, English, and French cartridges; the summary statement of arms purchases and manufacture, 1861-1865; and pertinent sections from various regulations and manuals. There is also a bibliography and an index.

There may well be some critics who will point out that the first chapter on very early firearms is not of the same quality as the rest of the work. It is true that this portion is based on the earlier secondary works of Piobert, Sawyer, Deane, and others and so does not always reflect the best modern American and European scholarship. Colonel Lewis himself, however, has always looked upon this chapter simply as an introduction to his major field which is concerned with firearms and ammunition after 1783, and which does reflect a vast amount of original research. More serious is the fact that the wash drawings of early lock types are not accurate and in two instances are badly misdated. The author recognizes this fact himself and mentions it in one spot in the text,

though many readers may well overlook his warning. These criticisms, however, are really of a very minor nature and have very little validity when placed against the monumental contribution that Colonel Lewis has made in the rest of the book.

Harold L. Peterson

★ ★ ★

*Arms and Men: A Military History of the United States*, by Walter Millis, New York, G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1956, 365 pages, \$5.75.

Focusing on the military antiquities we may lose sight of war's larger significance as a social phenomena and of military forces as products of social institutions. Leaders, wars, campaigns, and battles have been written about repeatedly but only occasionally military policy. Upton, Palmer, and Ganoë dealt with our Army and military policy. Bernado and Bacon have brought these up to date. Mahan and the Sprouts had much to say on U. S. naval policy. Mitchell, Seversky, Possony, Finletter, and Dale C. Smith thumped for air power. Long lacking, however, has been an historical treatment of American military history and policy integrating Army, Navy, internal politics, foreign policy, economics, and social institutions. And today such a study must include the current impact of aviation, atomics, and our new role in world leadership.

Member Millis in *Arms and Men* disclaims attempting to fill this void. Rather he presents it as a commentary on our military policy instead of a formal history—a review in relation to political, economic, and social implications. He attempts to answer the question: "Is it possible, by retraversing the history of American military institutions in the light of the newer attitudes, to shed any illumination upon the extraordinarily difficult, the seemingly insoluble, military problems which confront the nation today?" To this reviewer, it is indeed possible and the attempt is certainly pertinent as the first effort of this scope.

Member Millis traces what he terms the successive democratic, industrial, managerial, scientific, political, and propagandist revolutions in warfare—from Lexington and Concord to the present. In so doing he advances several provocative theses. The American Revolution is seen as the precursor of the modern "peoples' war" and our militia sys-



tem as a sort of military check and balance. A reappraisal of Upton, Mahan, Theodore Roosevelt, Elihu Root, Leonard Wood, and Billy Mitchell reveals fallacious aspects of their advocacy.

The post-World War II era has brought a host of super weapons and our largest "peacetime" force. However, the author thinks that we have failed to combine these tremendous means into a national edifice of military policy with which to meet our political and military problems as the world's leading power. He sees our experts in complete contradiction as to our future optimum military policy with many proposals advanced and means undertaken towards solving our dilemma. These are reviewed and analyzed, from disarmament, through continental air defense, to preventive nuclear war.

Member Millis does not attempt to suggest a solution but merely to paint the picture—and a dismal canvas he makes it. This we cannot fully accept as the case is a bit overstated. True, we have not solved all the dilemmas confronting us but, on the other hand, we have prevented a full-blown war for the past ten years.

In painting this picture, discussion of a number of vital matters is omitted—the National Security Council and the Central Intelligence Agency, to mention but two. The antiquarian will detect a number of minor errors as misdating the use of various weapons and, when dealing with the post-Revolutionary Army, not mentioning Wayne's Legion. These fortunately do not affect the basic value of the work.

The above criticisms notwithstanding, Member Millis has done a creditable job of providing a non-partisan overview of American military policy far beyond the limited studies of previous commentators. Furthermore, he brings to this task all the literary skill and historical insight displayed in his *The Martial Spirit* and *The Road to War*.

Lt. Col. Brooke Nihart, USMC

★ ★ ★

During the summer, two books were published by the Historical Section of the Canadian Army under the general aegis of Member Charles P. Stacey. *Canada's Army in Korea: A Short Official Account* by Capt. F. R. McGuire (Queen's Printer, Ottawa, \$.75) gives within its 104 pages an account of the whole international operation and its problems from the experience of the Canadian nation and the Canadian soldier. *The Canadian Army in*

*Italy, 1943-1945* by Lt. Col. G. W. L. Nicholson (Queen's Printer, \$3.50) is a larger book of some 807 pages which presents the final exhaustively documented work on Canada's considerable participation in the Sicilian-Italian campaign.

★ ★ ★

From England comes a very fine book that will be of interest to all who are concerned in any way in the British Army. *Shoulder-belt Plates and Buttons* by Major H. G. Parkyn (Gale & Polden, £2/2) is far more than its title indicates. The book is organized on the basis of regiments. Under each regiment is a dated list of the various titles by which that regiment has been known, its badges, and its battle honors. Then comes a description of its various belt plates and buttons with illustrations when extant specimens can be found. From this it can be seen that even those who have only a slight interest in the buttons and belt plates themselves will find this book of considerable value as a handy reference on names, dates and battles. It should take its place on any reference shelf related to British military history. As a sidelight, it is interesting to note that examples of Revolutionary plates and buttons must be extremely rare in Great Britain. Almost all of the early illustrations seem to have been taken from specimens excavated in this country.

★ ★ ★

Although space limitation prevents comment at length on books dealing with famous leaders or battles, several volumes have appeared in recent months which merit at least a passing comment. Member Edward J. Stackpole has produced *They Met At Gettysburg* (Eagle Books, \$4.95), a detailed account of that climactic battle of the Civil War. It presents little startling or new in the form of hitherto unpublished data or unusual interpretations of the actions, but it is complete and accurate and well illustrated.

Virgil Carrington Jones, on the other hand, has produced one of the freshest contributions to the vast literature of the Civil War in his new book, *Gray Ghosts and Rebel Raiders* (Henry Holt & Company, \$4.50). In the compass of its 431 pages "Pat" Jones tells the story of guerilla warfare in the East as it has never been told before and irresistibly points out its importance in postponing the final Union victory.

The old classic, *Battles and Leaders of the Civil*



*War* has been dusted off and brought forth in two new versions. One is a single volume condensation of the original four which is excellent as far as it goes. The other is a complete reprint which is marred unfortunately by a reduction in page size and generally poor reproductions of the famous illustrations.

\* \* \*

The Indian wars also have received further treatment in J. W. Vaughn's *With Crook at the Rosebud* (The Stackpole Company, \$5.00). Vaughn has assembled here a vast amount of detailed information on Crook's every move. It is an authoritative and interesting account but could have been improved with more and better maps.

\* \* \*

One new book of a slightly different type merits inclusion in these columns. *A History of the Cutlery Industry in the Connecticut Valley* by Martha Van Hoesen Taber (*Smith College Studies in History*, Vol. XLI) is an economic study of the knife-making business in one of its principal centers in the United States. It does, however, contain excellent histories of several important firms who made swords and Bowie knives such as Nathan P. Ames and John Russell & Co. There is also a good chapter on the manufacturing processes employed in forging a knife. Available from Smith College, Northampton, Mass., for \$2.

\* \* \*

The average student of American military history never gets a chance to see the splendid maps or read the faculty-authored textbooks that are used in West Point's courses covering American campaigns. A recent book, *Military Heritage of America* by Colonels R. E. and T. N. Dupuy (McGraw-Hill, \$10.00), has drawn generously upon the information in these texts and has used West Point maps to highlight a most readable narrative of our military record.

#### RECORDS

It has been some months since we have been able to comment on recent military records, and during that time a number of very fine pressings have been released. A few of them are mentioned below. Unless otherwise noted, all are 33 1/3 rpm and 12-inch.

Among the American items, Mercury has taken

the lead with two notable records of American field music from the Revolution to the present. *The Spirit of '76* contains famous fife and drum pieces, both marches and camp duty from the Revolution through the Civil War. *Ruffles and Flourishes* brings the collection up to date with trumpet and drum music from the Civil War to the present. It includes both marches and traditional bugle calls based on an Army technical manual of 1942. The recording and performance on both records are outstanding. It is seldom that recordings of field music are available, and therefore these outstanding examples are doubly welcome.

Both of the above records are performed by the Eastman symphonic wind ensemble, and it might well be appropos here to mention that this same group has recorded for Mercury a number of fine American marches under such titles as *Marching Along* and *Marches for Twirling*. In each one the performance and recording are superlative, and an extra emphasis on woodwinds produces an unusual effect that should commend them to all collectors of American military music.

In the foreign field, Angel has produced *The Scots Guards on Parade*, a sequel to its previous Scots guards record, and a fine recording of Italian operatic marches by the Carabinieri band. London Records has contributed *Continental Marches*, a group of the best-known marches of all nations. Decca has turned to Scotland with the *Pipe Band of Her Majesty's Scots Guards and the City of Glasgow Police Pipe Band* which contains a large selection of traditional marches, strathspeys and reels. After having heard many of these bands play in person, it is indeed a pleasure to note that the recording is very faithful and the performance standard. One of the finest of all records related to British military music, however, has been provided by Capitol in *The Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines* which performs traditional retreat and tattoo music. France has been represented with *A History of Marches*, Vol. I, *Napoléon*, a 10-inch record of band music of the First Empire, and *The Songs and Marches of the Foreign Legion*, another 10-inch record, both on London International labels. The Foreign Legion record is exceptionally interesting, but unfortunately poorly recorded. From Germany, Telefunken has produced *Singen und Marschieren*, a 10-inch disk of some of the most famous German singing marches.





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